



No.122

Ten Cents

JULY
1948



ACTION COMICS

A 52 PAGE MAGAZINE

In this issue:

SUPERMAN

SUPER-STAR
IN THE
SUPER-PERILS
OF

**"The SUPER-
SIDESHOW"**



"Say—these snaps are
yearbook stuff!"

They're fun to look at
forever and a day...those snaps of school-time doings!
Fun to take, too...Kodak Verichrome Film makes picture-taking easy...a snap.
With Kodak Verichrome Film, you press the button...it does the rest!
Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester 4, N.Y.

Kodak Film
the film in the familiar
yellow box



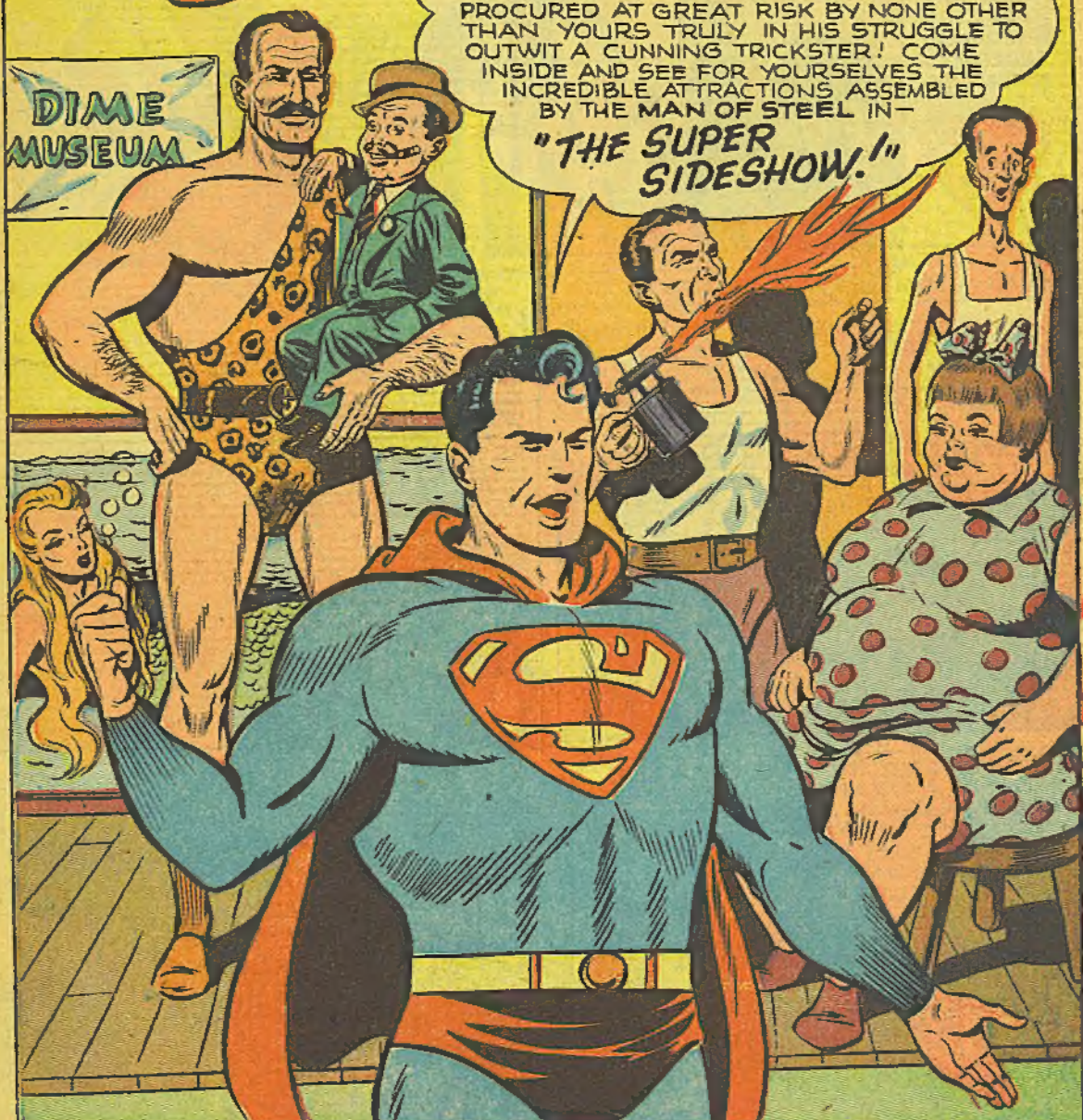
"KODAK" IS A TRADE-MARK

SUPERMAN

RIGHT THIS WAY, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, TO THE GREATEST
ASSEMBLAGE OF FREAKS AND WONDERS
EVER BROUGHT TOGETHER IN ONE DIME
MUSEUM! THESE ATTRACTIONS WERE
PROCURED AT GREAT RISK BY NONE OTHER
THAN YOURS TRULY IN HIS STRUGGLE TO
OUTWIT A CUNNING TRICKSTER! COME
INSIDE AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES THE
INCREDIBLE ATTRACTIONS ASSEMBLED
BY THE MAN OF STEEL IN—

**"THE SUPER
SIDESHOW!"**

DIME
MUSEUM



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WHEN EDITOR PERRY WHITE OF THE DAILY PLANET SENDS LOIS LANE ON A ROUTINE ASSIGNMENT, HE UNWITTINGLY BEGINS A STRANGE SUPERMAN ADVENTURE!



LOIS, THERE SHOULD BE A GOOD STORY IN THAT NEW DIME MUSEUM— THE ONE OWNED BY THE FREAKS THEMSELVES.

OKAY, I'LL TAKE A PHOTOGRAPHER ALONG FOR SOME PIX.

THE DIME MUSEUM, WHERE CHARLEY CARSON, THE BARKER, SHOUTS TO A FASCINATED AUDIENCE...

STEP UP, FOLKS— SEE THE FIRE-EATER! THE INDIA-RUBBER MAN! SEE THE HUMAN FLY WALK UP WALLS! THE LIVING SKELETON AND MANY OTHER WONDERS!

DIME MUSEUM

LATER... LOIS QUESTIONS CARSON...

SURE, THE FREAKS LEASED THIS BUILDING FOR THEIR SHOW. I'M UNDER EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT AS THEIR BARKER.

THE PICTURES WE'LL TAKE WILL MEAN GOOD PUBLICITY FOR ALL OF YOU!

SOON AFTER...

YES, WE OWN THE DIME MUSEUM TOGETHER, AND WE ALL ROOM IN THE SAME BOARDING HOUSE.

TOGETHER WE'RE ONE HAPPY FAMILY.

LATER—DINNER AT THE FREAKS' HOUSE PROVIDES A GREATER ATTRACTION THAN AT THE MUSEUM...

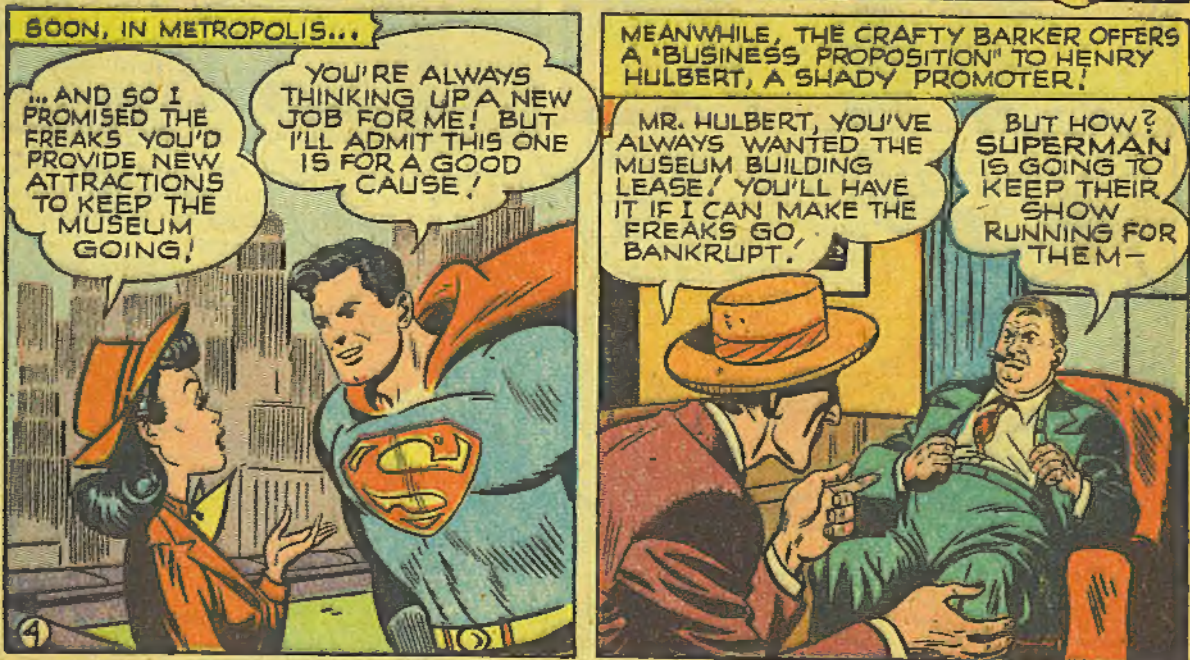
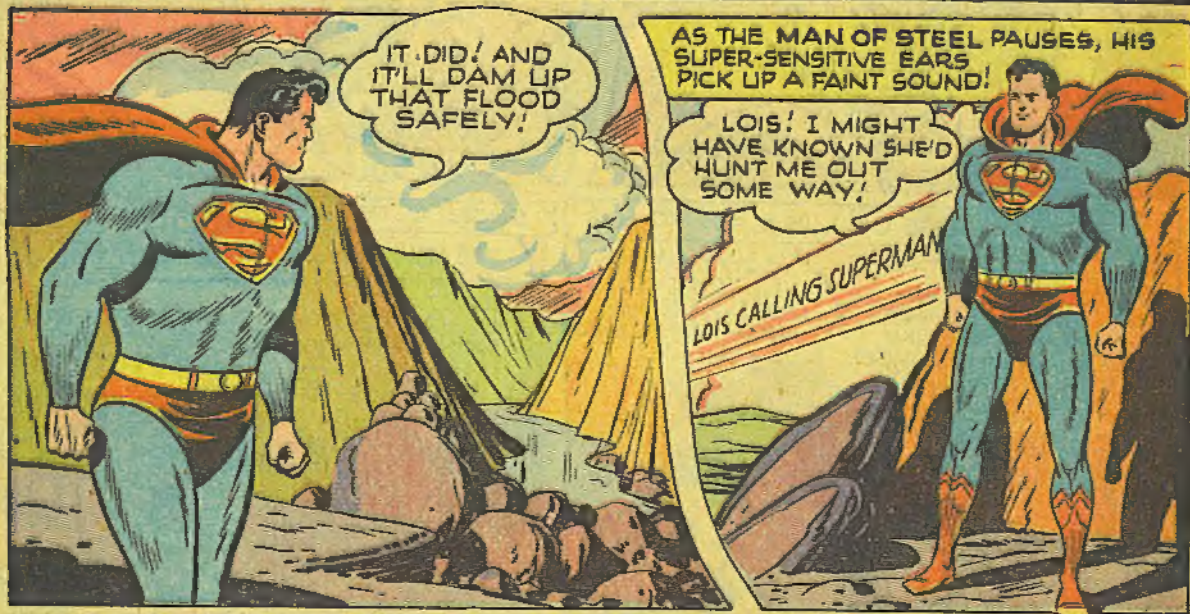
MY TOAST ISN'T CRISP ENOUGH!

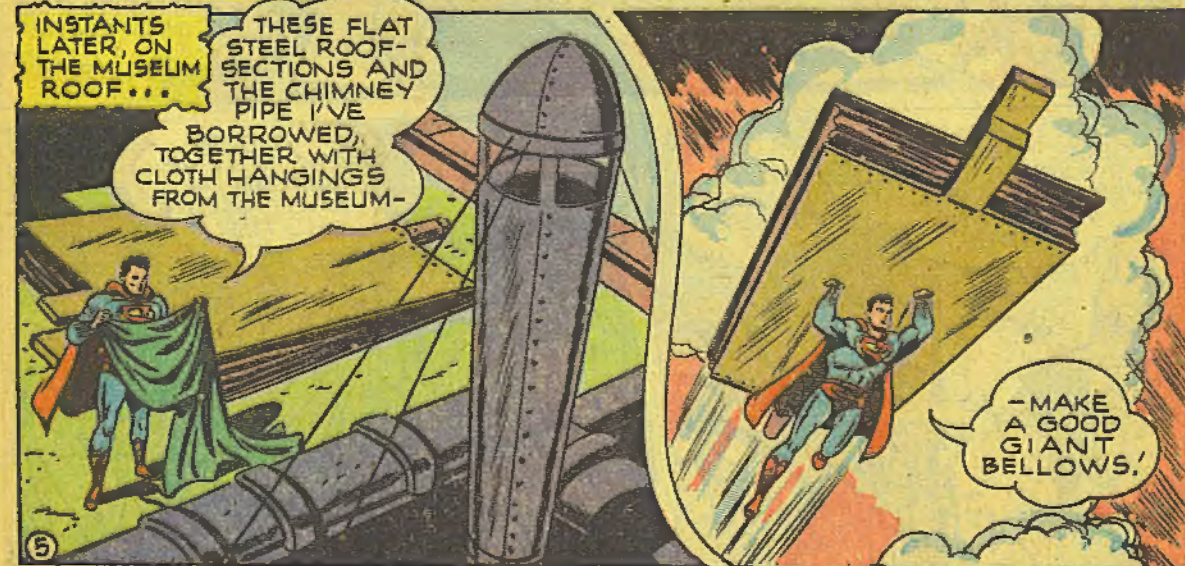
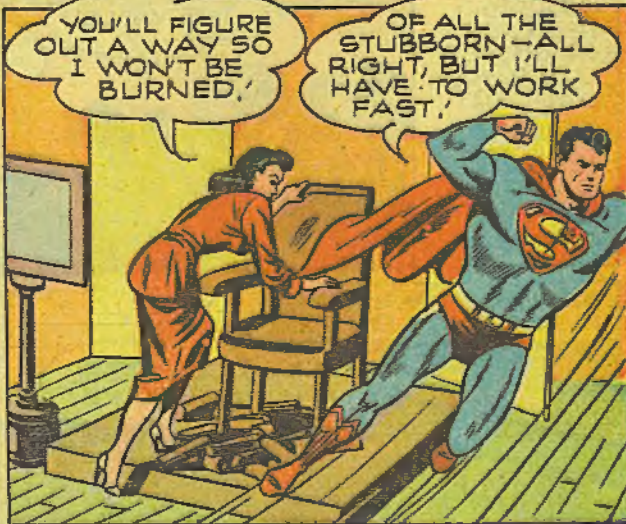
I'LL TOAST IT SOME MORE FOR YOU!

MUST THE HUMAN FLY KEEP CLIMBING THE WALL? HE TRACKS UP THE WALLPAPER!

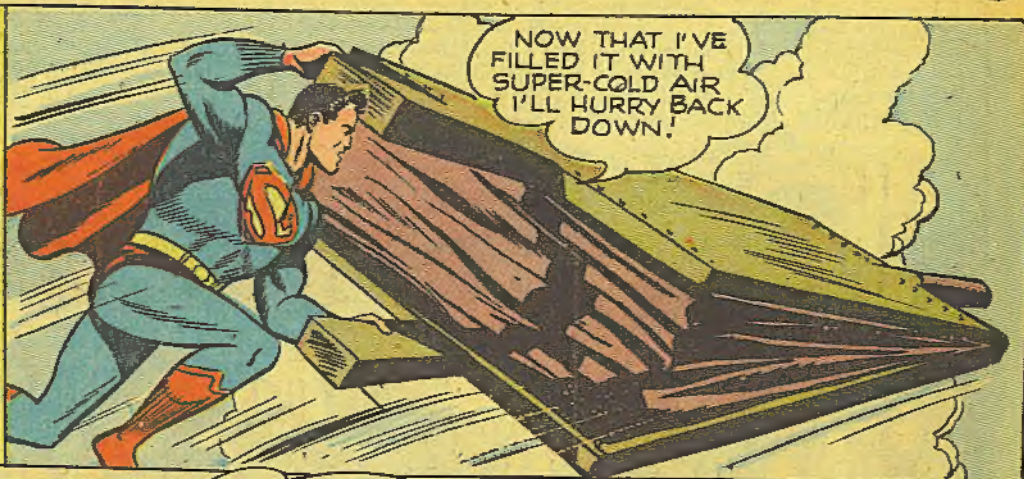
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE INDIA-RUBBER MAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IMPOLITE AND GRAB SO FAR FOR FOOD!







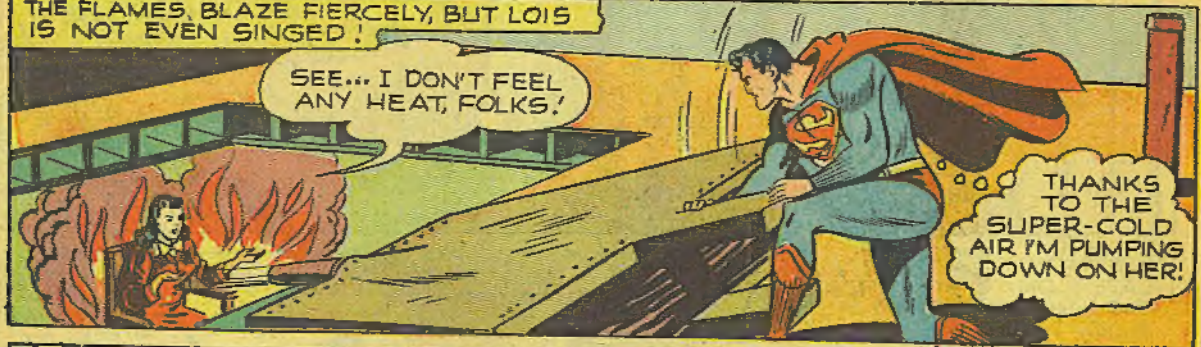
NEXT,
SUPERMAN
ROCKETS
UP TO
THE
HIGH
STRATO-
SPHERE
WHERE
THE
AIR
IS
COLDEST-



THERE IS
NEED FOR
HURRY, FOR
LOIS, RASHLY
CONFIDENT
OF
SUPERMAN'S
HELP, IS
STARTING
HER ACT!



THE FLAMES, BLAZE FIERCELY, BUT LOIS
IS NOT EVEN SINGED!



I WANT THIS SHOW
CLOSED! IT'S A FRAUD!
THE BARKER CLAIMED
THEY HAVE A GIRL
WHO LIVES
IN FIRE!

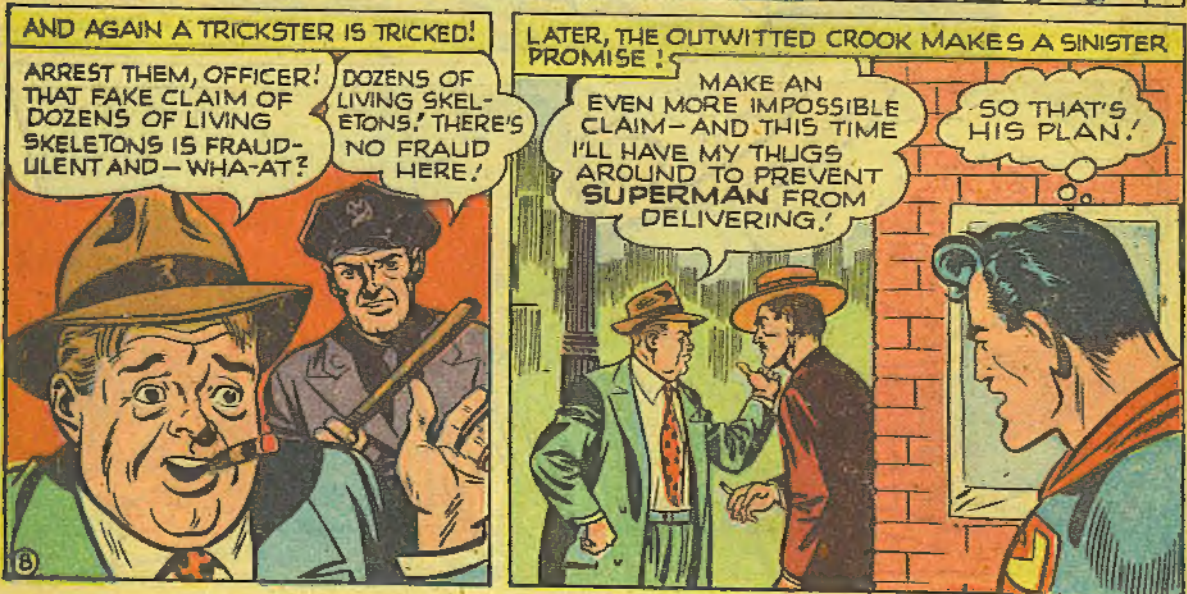
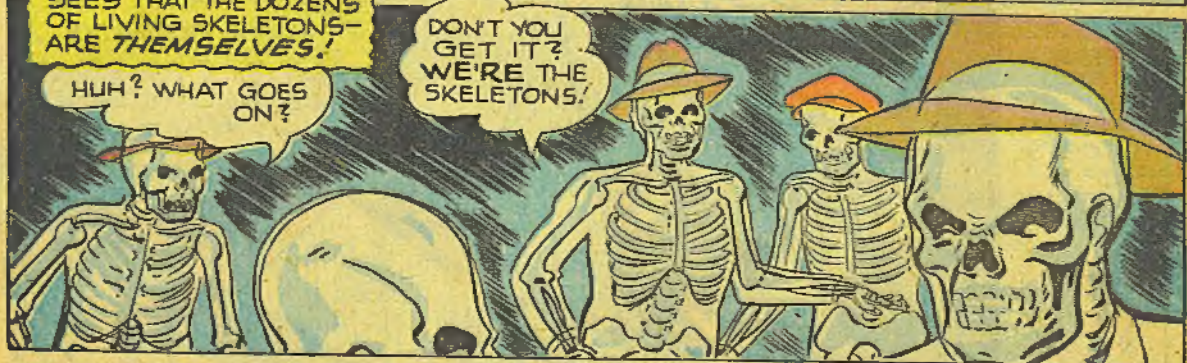
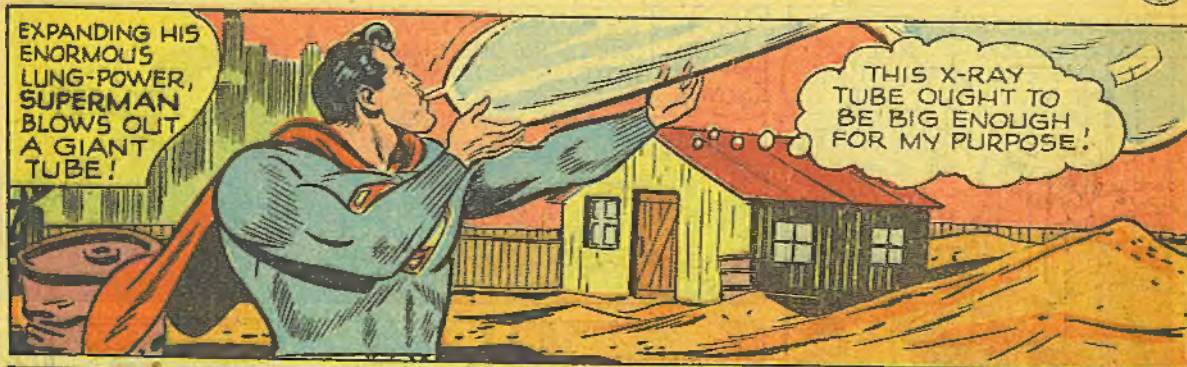
THAT
I WANT
TO SEE!

B-BUT-BUT,
IT'S TRUE!

IT SURE
IS! YOU'VE
MADE A
MISTAKE,
MISTER!







PRESENTLY...

STEP INSIDE, FOLKS! SEE THE SUPER-HUMAN FLIES! THEY NOT ONLY WALK ON WALLS—THEY WALK ON THE CEILING!!

WALK ON THE CEILING? NO HUMAN FLY CAN DO THAT!

AS AN EXPECTANT CROWD AGAIN POURS IN, SUPERMAN VIEWS HULBERT AND HIS THUGS WITH X-RAY VISION AND DETECTS...

THEY'RE ALL WEARING STEEL BULLETPROOF VESTS FOR SAFETY!

SUPERMAN DISCUSSES THE PROBLEM WITH LOIS...

BUT THOSE THUGS MAY SHOOT WILDLY AND HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE!

YET, IF I DON'T MAKE GOOD, THE FREAKS WILL LOSE THEIR MUSEUM! IT'S A TOUGH PROBLEM—BUT I CAN SOLVE IT!

MOMENTS LATER, AT AN OLD FACTORY THAT IS BEING DISMANTLED—

OUR STRONGEST CRANES CAN'T PULL THAT HUGE BAR OF STEEL OUT OF THE CEMENT AND YOU SAY SUPERMAN CAN DO IT!

WHY NOT ASK HIM, BOSS? HERE HE COMES NOW—IN PERSON!

BOYS, I'LL YANK THAT BAR OUT IF YOU LEND IT TO ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

IT'S YOURS! BUT I'LL BET EVEN YOU CAN'T DO IT!

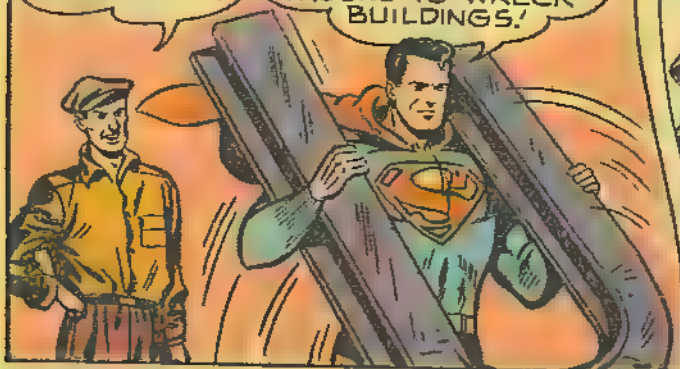
SMILING, SUPERMAN EXERTS HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH—

SEE—I SAID SUPERMAN COULD DO IT!

WITH HIS BARE HANDS, SUPERMAN THEN BENDS THE HUGE STEEL BAR INTO THE DESIRED SHAPE!

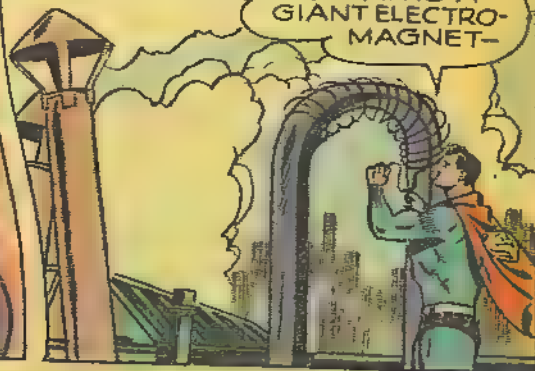
HOW ABOUT A JOB WITH US, SUPERMAN?

NO, THANKS. BUT I'M TOO BUSY WRECKING CROOKS TO WRECK BUILDINGS!

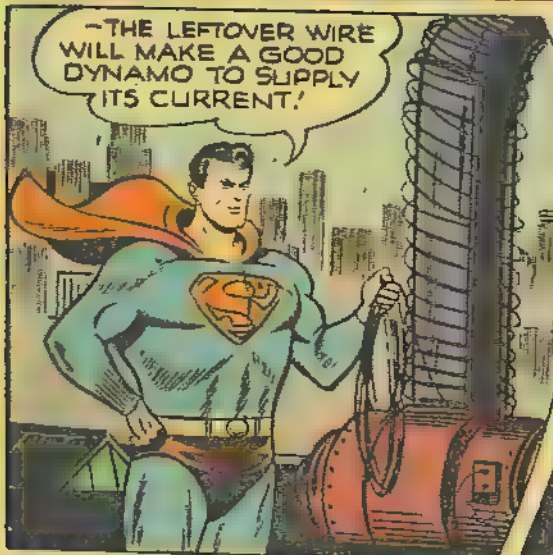


MOMENTS LATER, ON THE ROOF OF THE DIME MUSEUM—

LUCKILY THEY HAD LOTS OF JUNKED WIRE, TOO! NOW I'LL CONVERT THE BAR INTO A GIANT ELECTRO-MAGNET—



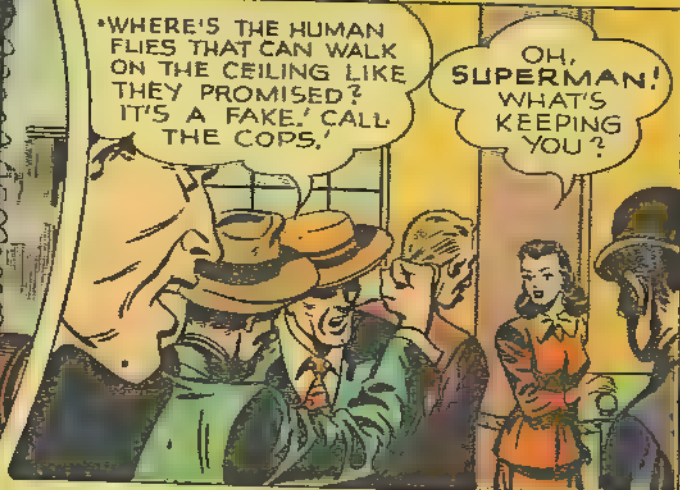
—THE LEFTOVER WIRE WILL MAKE A GOOD DYNAMO TO SUPPLY ITS CURRENT!



MEANWHILE, IN THE MUSEUM BELOW, HULBERT'S THUGS ARE AROUSING THE CROWD...

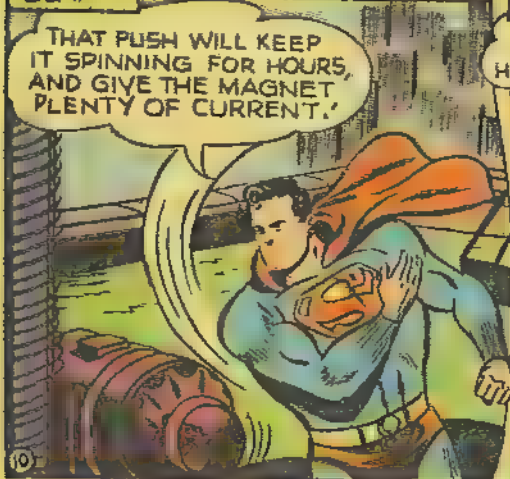
'WHERE'S THE HUMAN FLIES THAT CAN WALK ON THE CEILING LIKE THEY PROMISED? IT'S A FAKE! CALL THE COPS.'

OH, SUPERMAN! WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?



BUT ON THE ROOF, SUPERMAN GIVES THE MOTOR A HERCULEAN SLAP—

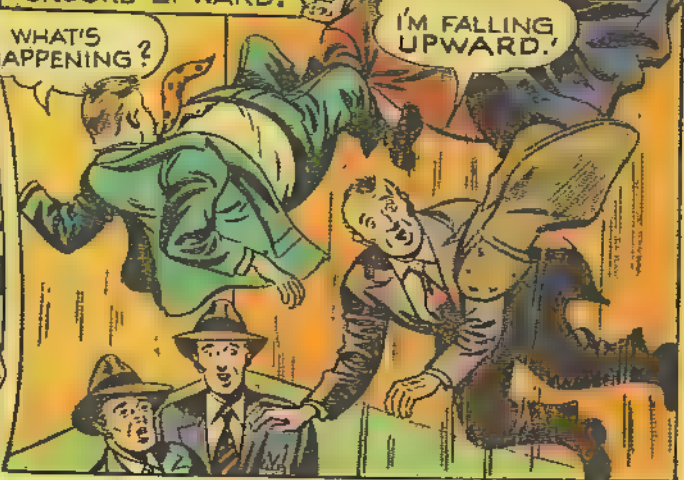
THAT PUSH WILL KEEP IT SPINNING FOR HOURS, AND GIVE THE MAGNET PLENTY OF CURRENT!

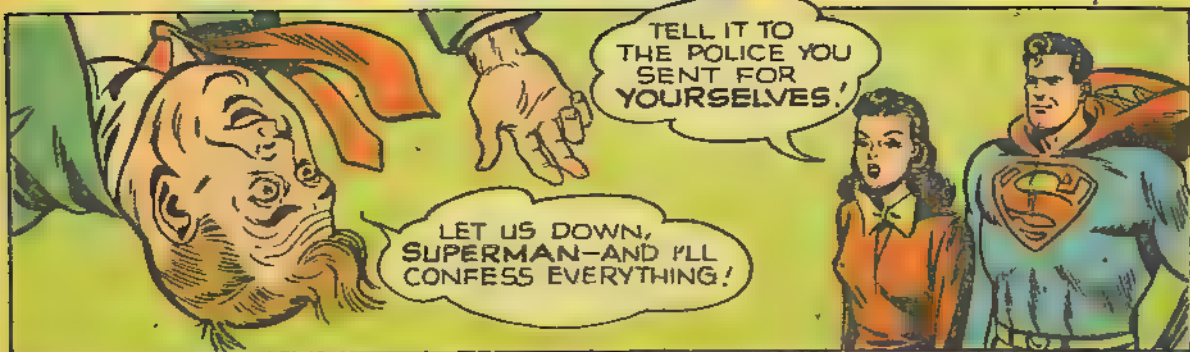
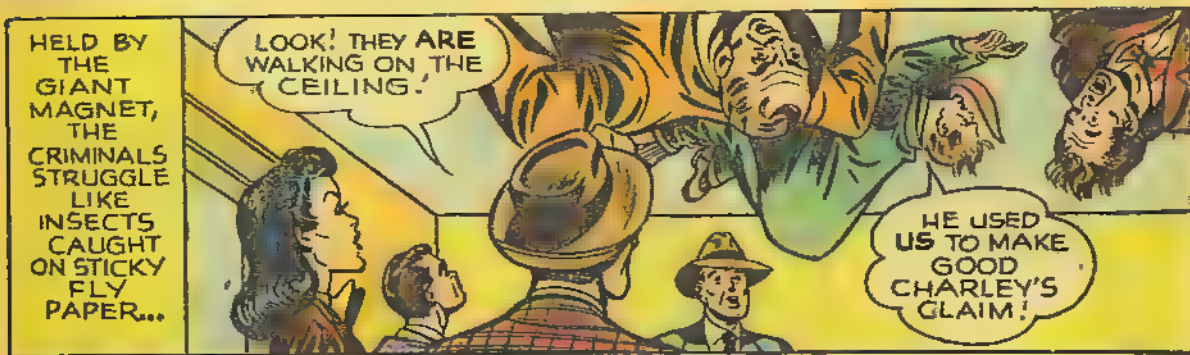


AND THE MAGNETIC ATTRACTION PULLS ON THE STEEL BULLETPROOF VESTS, DRAGGING THE CROOKS UPWARD!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I'M FALLING UPWARD!





SOON, TWO TRICKSTERS WISH THEY WERE SAFE IN PRISON AS ANGRY FREAKS SURROUND THEM!

EXCUSE IT IF MY BREATH IS WARM!

HELP, HE'LL BURN ME UP!

EEK! WHERE DID THIS ONE COME FROM?

COME ON BACK HERE, CHARLEY! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM MY RUBBER ARM'S REACH!

ULP!

OH, I WAS JUST TAKING A STROLL DOWN THE WALL!

HM-MM! WHAT LOVELY MUSIC! WELL, THE MUSEUM IS SAVED! YOUR JOB IS FINISHED!

NOT YET! I WANT TO EXHIBIT ONE MORE ATTRACTION AT THE MUSEUM!

LATER...

YOU SAY YOUR LAST ATTRACTION IS INSIDE THIS GLASS CASE? BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

YOU WILL!

OUR LAST ATTRACTION, FOLKS—THE MOST RECKLESS, STUBBORN AND TROUBLE-HUNTING GIRL IN THE WORLD, CAGED AT LAST!

SUPERMAN, YOU LET ME OUT OF HERE!

BAM!
BLAM!

"U.S. ROYAL"

WITH HIS
JET-PROPELLED BIKE



"ROUNDING UP
THE RUSTLERS"



WHILE VACATIONING OUT WEST, DEPUTY U.S. ROYAL AND THE BOYS OF THE ELM CITY BIKE CLUB ARE ENJOYING THE SIGHTS, WHEN SUDDENLY...

SAY, ROYAL, WHO'S KICKING UP ALL THAT DUST DOWN THERE IN THE VALLEY?

RUSTLERS! AND THE POSSE'S NOT FAR BEHIND!



AND AS ROYAL WATCHES THE CHASE THROUGH HIS GLASSES, HE SEES...

GOOD! THE POSSE CAN'T FIGURE WHICH WAY WE WENT!

WELL, KEEP RIDIN'... WE AIN'T SAFE TILL WE GET THROUGH THE GORGE UP AHEAD...



FELLAS, YOU TWO BIKE DOWN AND TELL THE POSSE TO HEAD FOR THE GORGE...I'LL HAVE A NICE SURPRISE THERE WAITING FOR THEM!



NOW IF I CAN JUST GET TO THE TOP OF THAT GORGE BEFORE THOSE CATTLE-THIEVES GET TO THE BOTTOM!



I MADE IT! THESE ROCKS WILL FORCE THEM TO TURN BACK...RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE POSSE!



BOYS, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE PUT AN END TO THIS RUSTLIN' RACKET...THAT WAS MIGHTY FAST WORK ON YOUR PART!

YOU MEAN MIGHTY FAST BIKING... THANKS TO OUR U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES!



FELLAS, SPEED AND SAFETY ARE REALLY "BUILT INTO" U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES-- WITH THEIR SPECIAL BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN.



"TAKE MY TIP ON BIKE TIRES-- TAKE THE TIRE WITH THE BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN"...SAYS U.S. ROYAL

IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF FIRM FOOTING... SAFE, QUICK STOPS...MAXIMUM MILEAGE... PERFECT CONTROL--BE SURE TO GET U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES. THAT SPECIAL BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN MAKES THEM TOPS IN TIRES.

U.S. BIKE TIRES

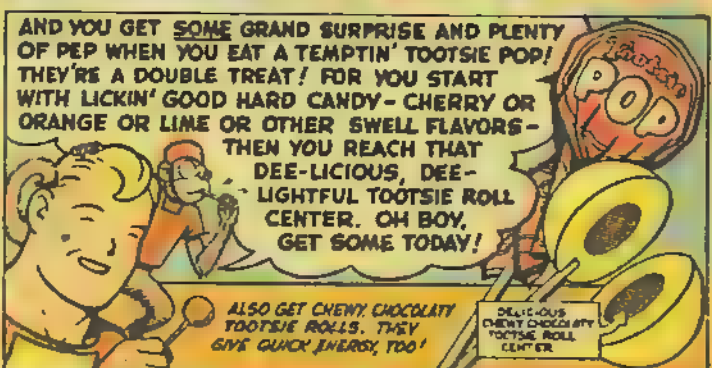
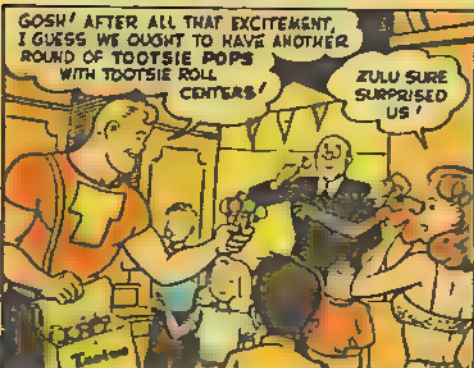
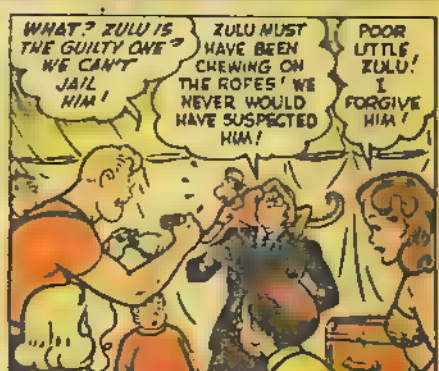
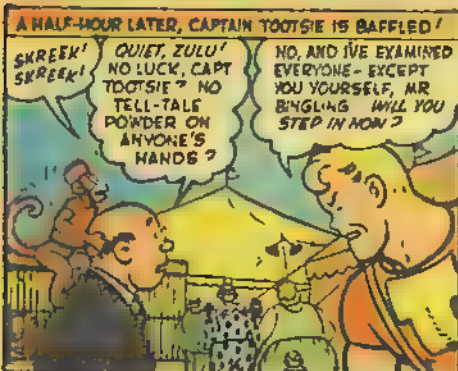
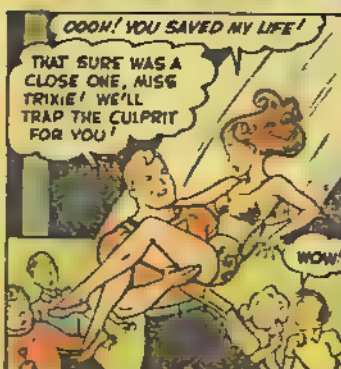
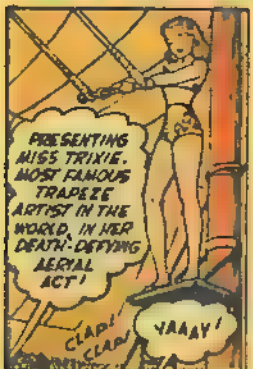
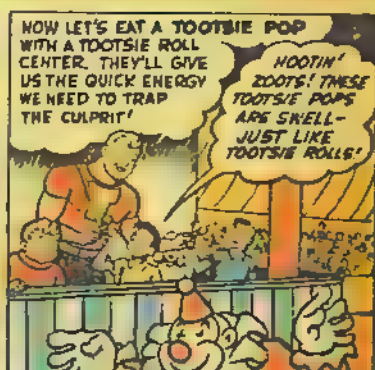
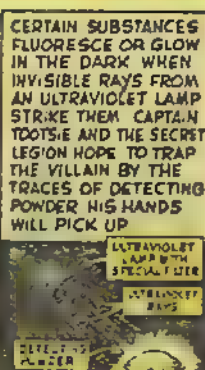
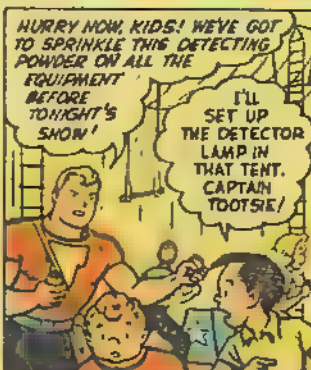
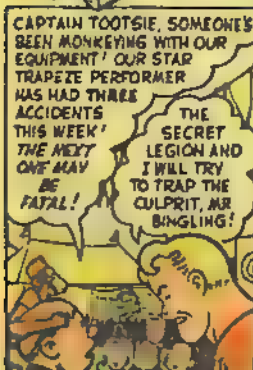
America's Fastest Selling Tires



UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY
Serving Through Science

TRAPS THE CIRCUS CULPRIT

BY C.C. BECK



CONGO BILL

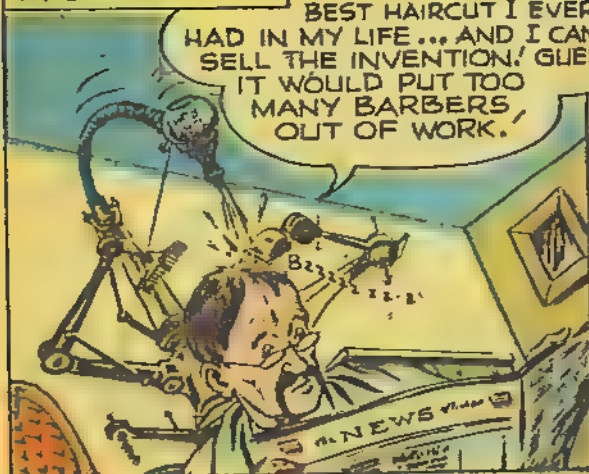
CHASING BUTTERFLIES MAY SOUND LIKE SMALL-TIME GAME... BUT THERE'S NOTHING SMALL FRY ABOUT THE PRICE SOME PRIZE SPECIMENS BRING, AND WHEN A PAIR OF CHISELERS TRIES TO PIN SOME DOWN FOR THEMSELVES... CONGO BILL, JACK OF ALL JUNGLE TRADES, FINDS DANGER WINGING ALL AROUND HIM IN THE FIGHT FOR...

"Butterfly Booty!"



SI EVANS, INVENTOR, BELIEVES IN HOME-MADE HAIRCUTS!

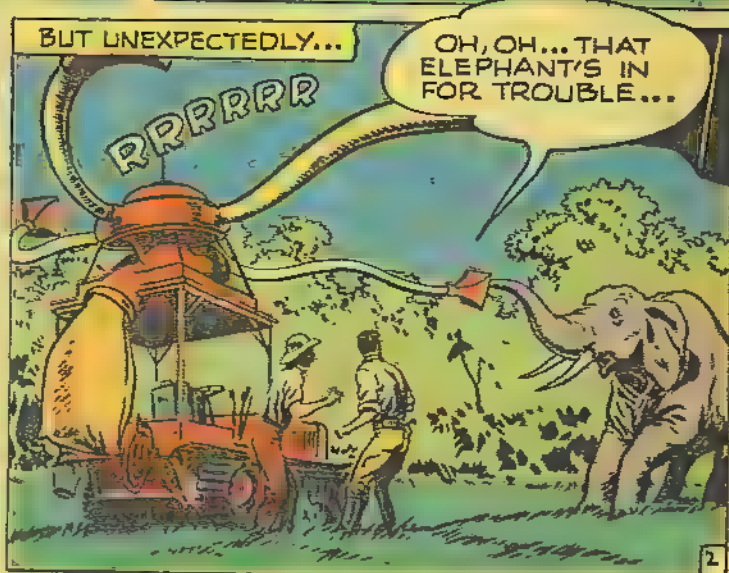
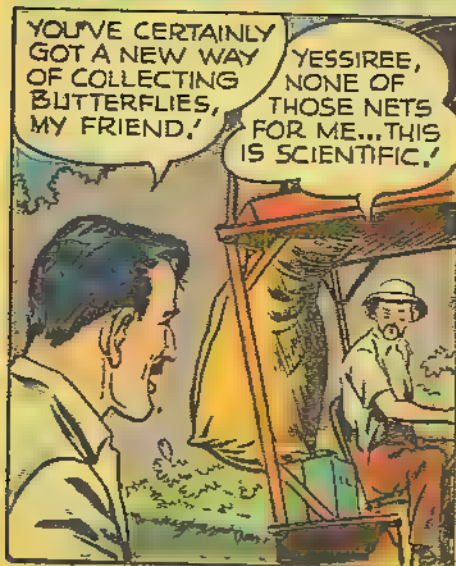
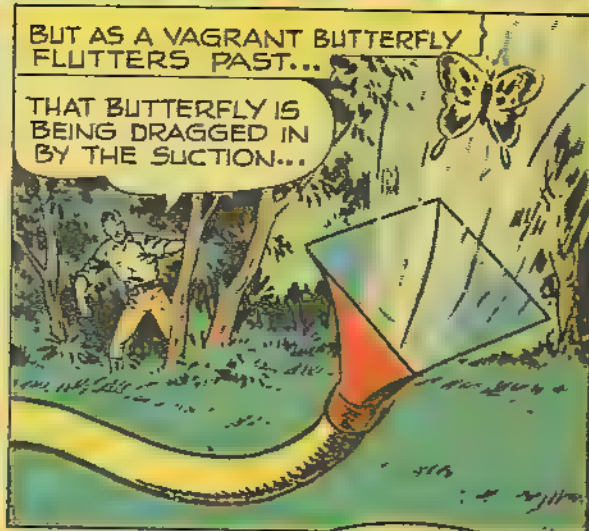
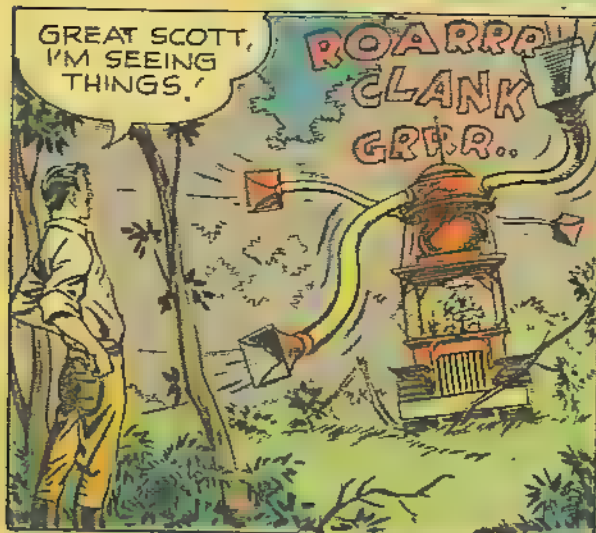
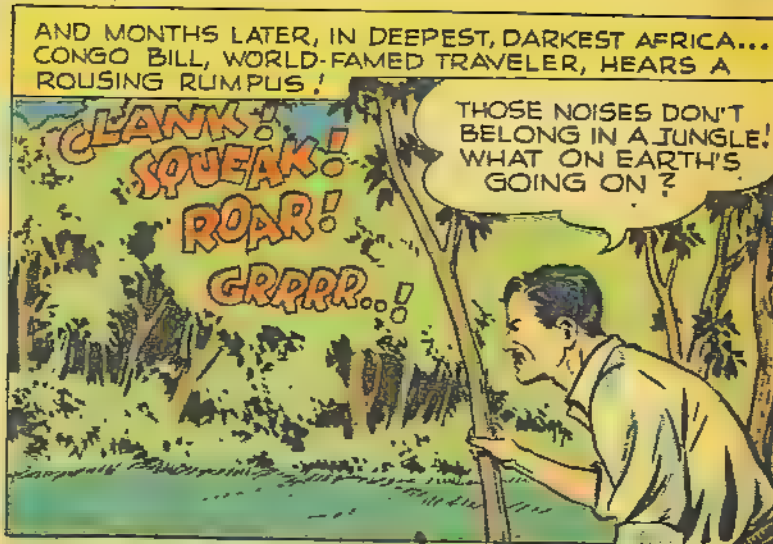
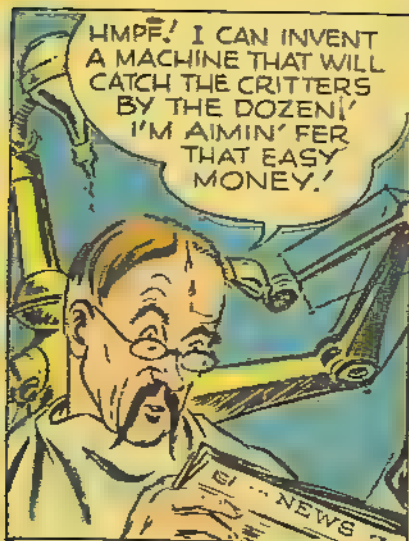
BEST HAIRCUT I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE... AND I CAN'T SELL THE INVENTION! GUESS IT WOULD PUT TOO MANY BARBERS OUT OF WORK.

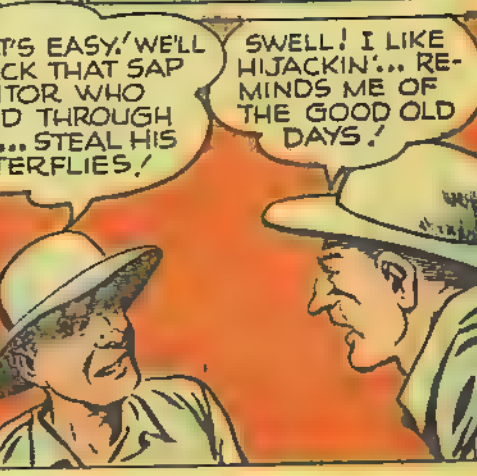
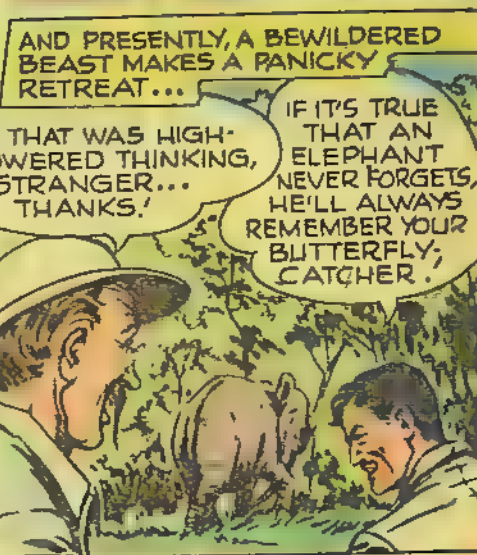
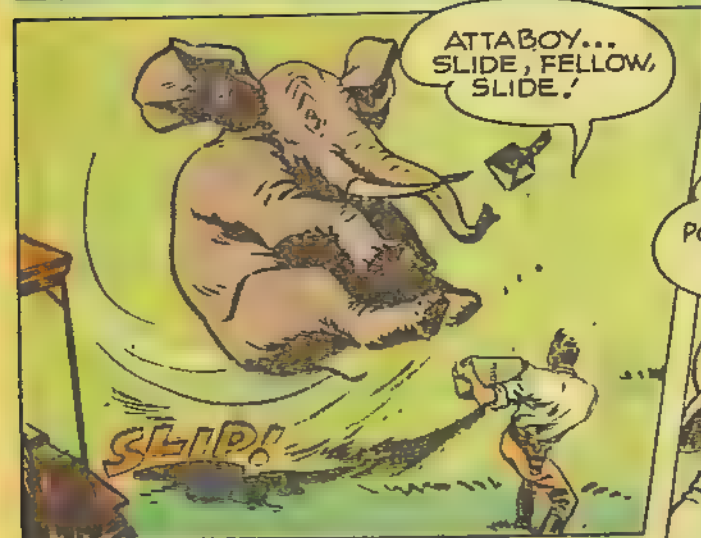
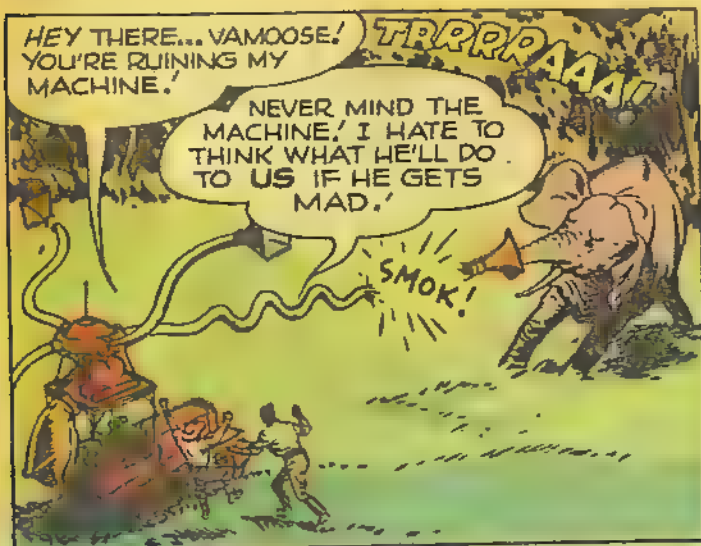


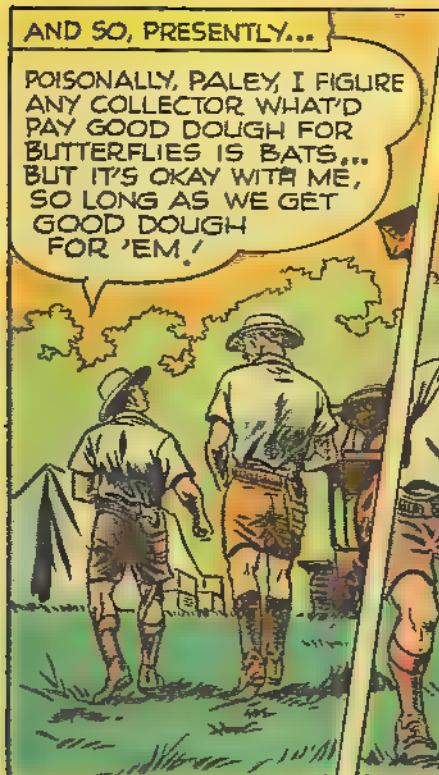
HUH...? THAT MUCH MONEY FOR A BUTTERFLY!

PROFESSOR TO PAY \$10,000 FOR RARE NEW BUTTERFLY



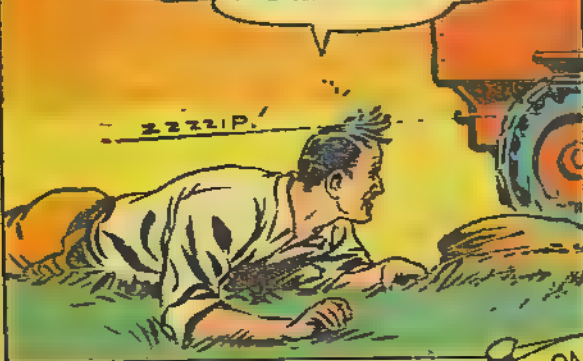






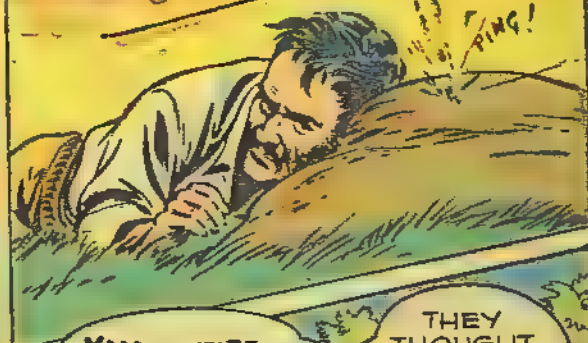
A HAIL OF DEADLY BULLETS IMPERILS THE LONE ADVENTURER.

THOSE THUGS CAME MIGHTY CLOSE THAT TIME... AND THEY'LL GET ME SOONER OR LATER...



...UNLESS... HMMM... I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

CRACK!



SOON...

YOU... WE'RE THE ONE'S WHO ARE OFF OUR HEADS... HE LURED THOSE CATS HERE!

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE GETTING A FREE MEAL... HOPE ITAIN'T US!

GRRRR...



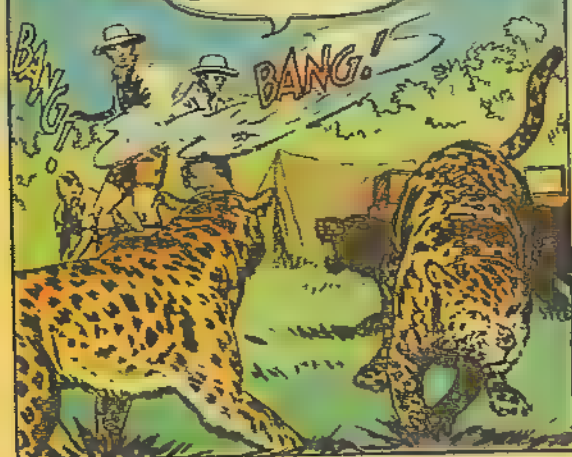
AND TO ASTOUNDED THUG EARS COMES A STRANGE SOUND!..

MAAAA...
MAAAA...

HE'S MAKIN' LIKE A GOAT... HE MUST BE OFF HIS HEAD.



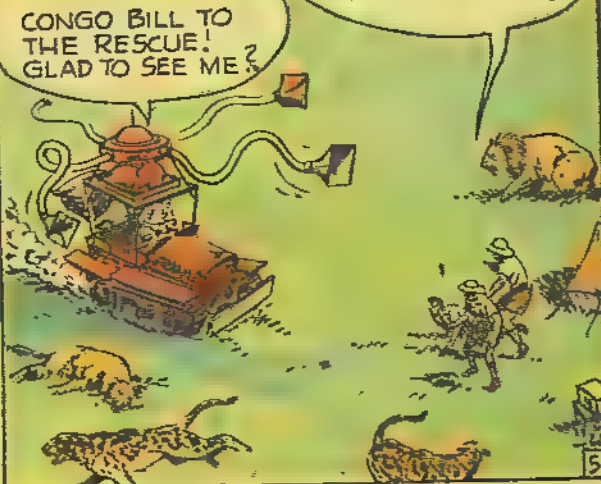
MAYBE THESE SLUGS ARE HEAVY ENOUGH TO STOP THEM.

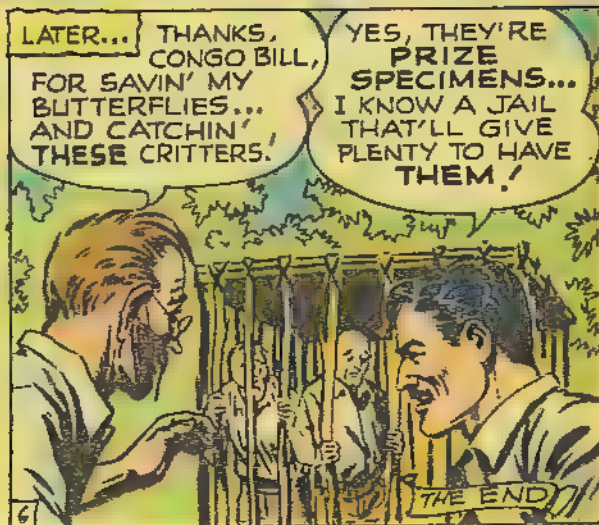
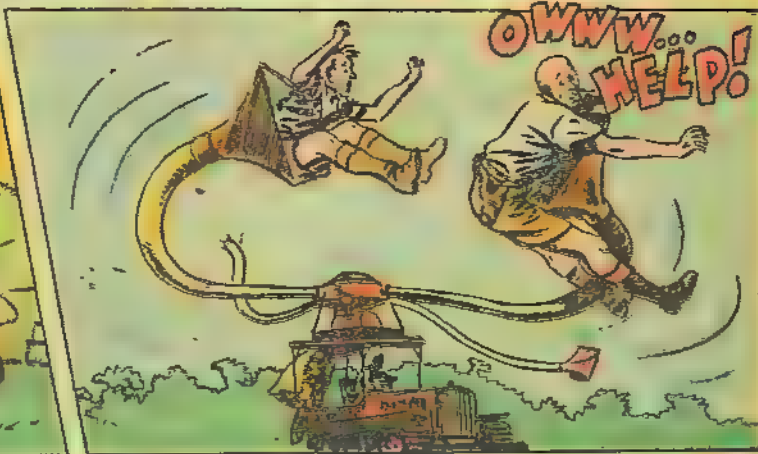
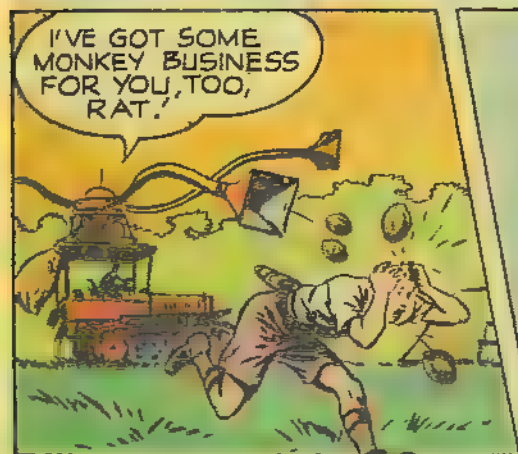


UNEXPECTEDLY...

CONGO BILL TO THE RESCUE! GLAD TO SEE ME?

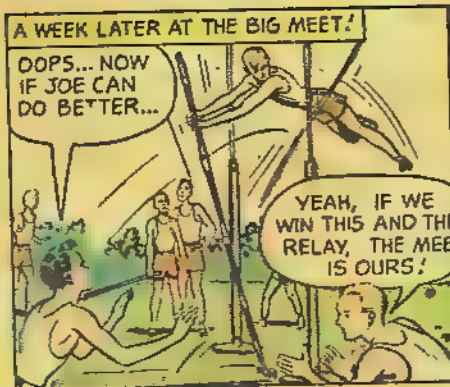
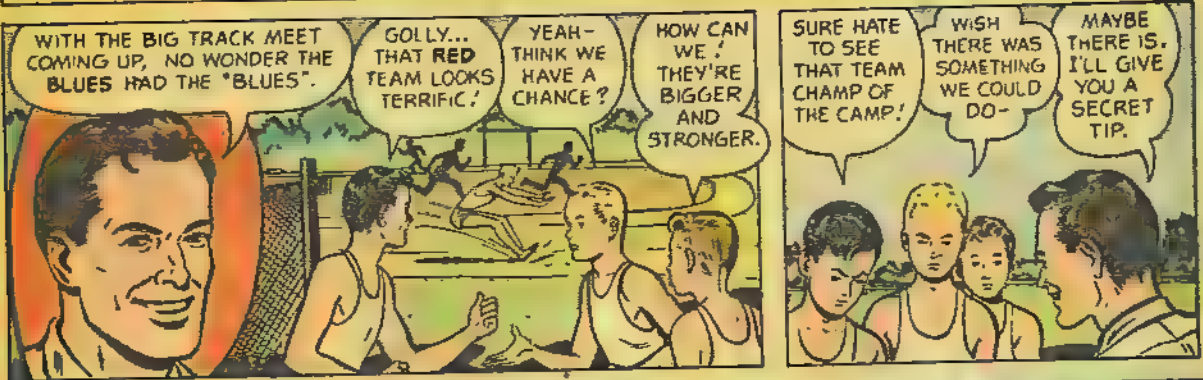
AND HOW! QUICK, SHORTY, RELOAD!





WON-BY A WHISPER!

ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" SPORTS STORY

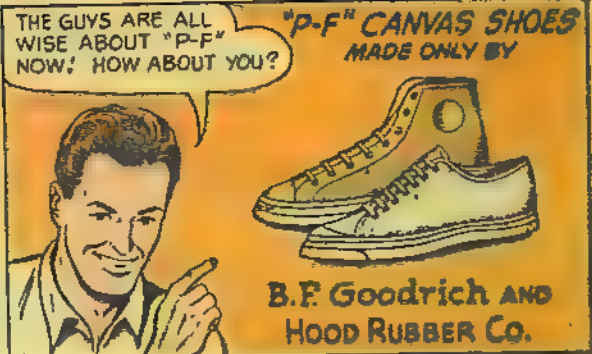
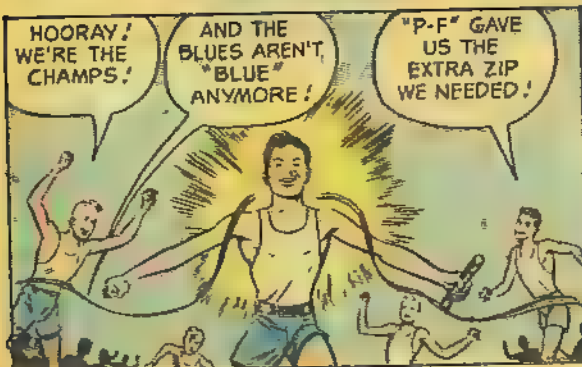


WHAT JIM TOLD THE BOYS ABOUT "P-F" HERE'S WHY "P-F" GIVES YOU MORE STAYING POWER, SPEEDS UP YOUR GAME, MAKES YOU A BETTER ATHLETE:

1. THIS RIGID WEDGE KEEPS THE BONES OF THE FOOT IN THEIR NATURAL, NORMAL POSITION.
2. THIS SPONGE RUBBER CUSHION ASSURES COMFORT FOR THE SENSITIVE AREA OF THE FOOT.



"P-F" MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION... A PATENTED FEATURE FOUND ONLY IN "P-F" CANVAS SHOES



Everything YOU WANT IN A MAGAZINE!

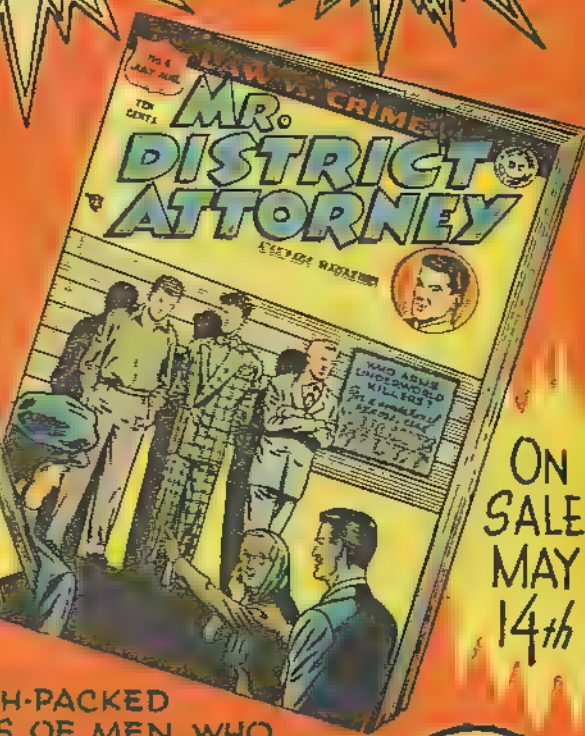
DRAMA!

EXCITEMENT!

ACTION!



ON
SALE
APRIL
9th

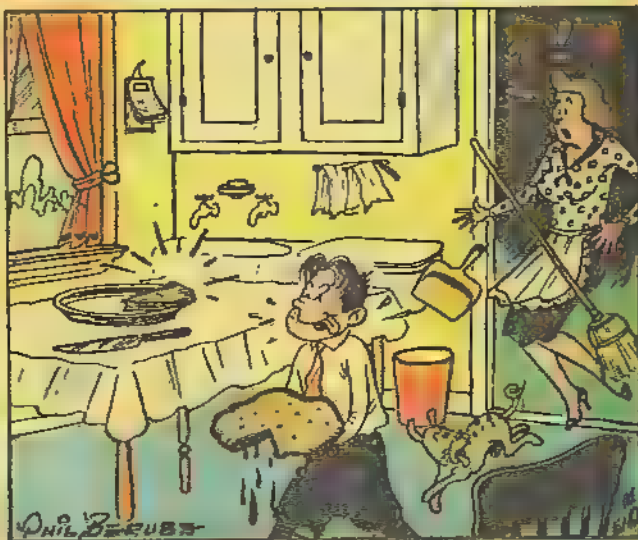
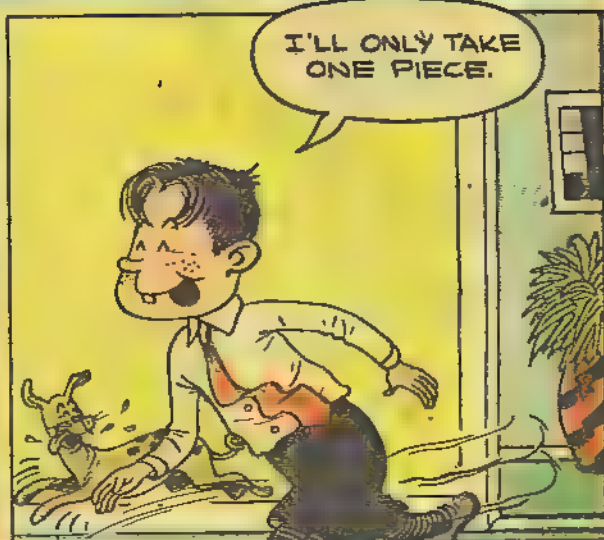
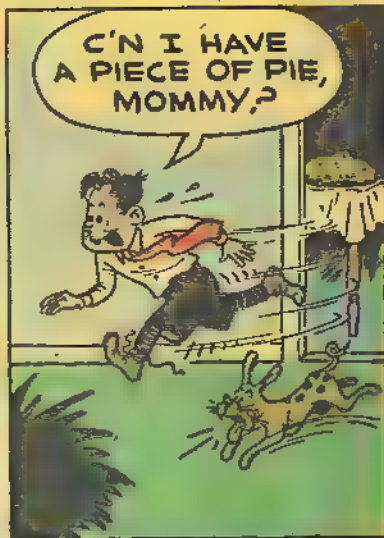
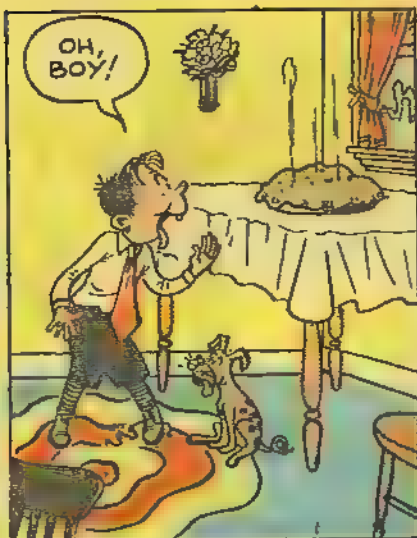
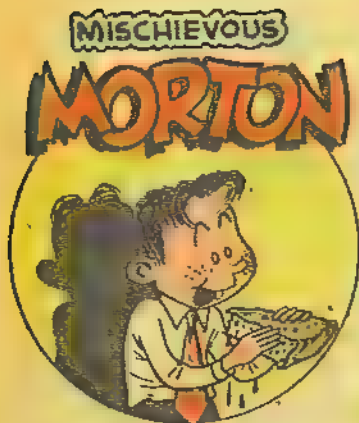


ON
SALE
MAY
14th

THE PUNCH-PACKED
CASE-HISTORIES OF MEN WHO
TRIED TO BEAT THE LAW—AND
OF THE LAWMEN WHO BEAT!
THEM TO THE FINAL DRAW.



TOPS IN RADIO!
NOW TOPS IN COMICS!

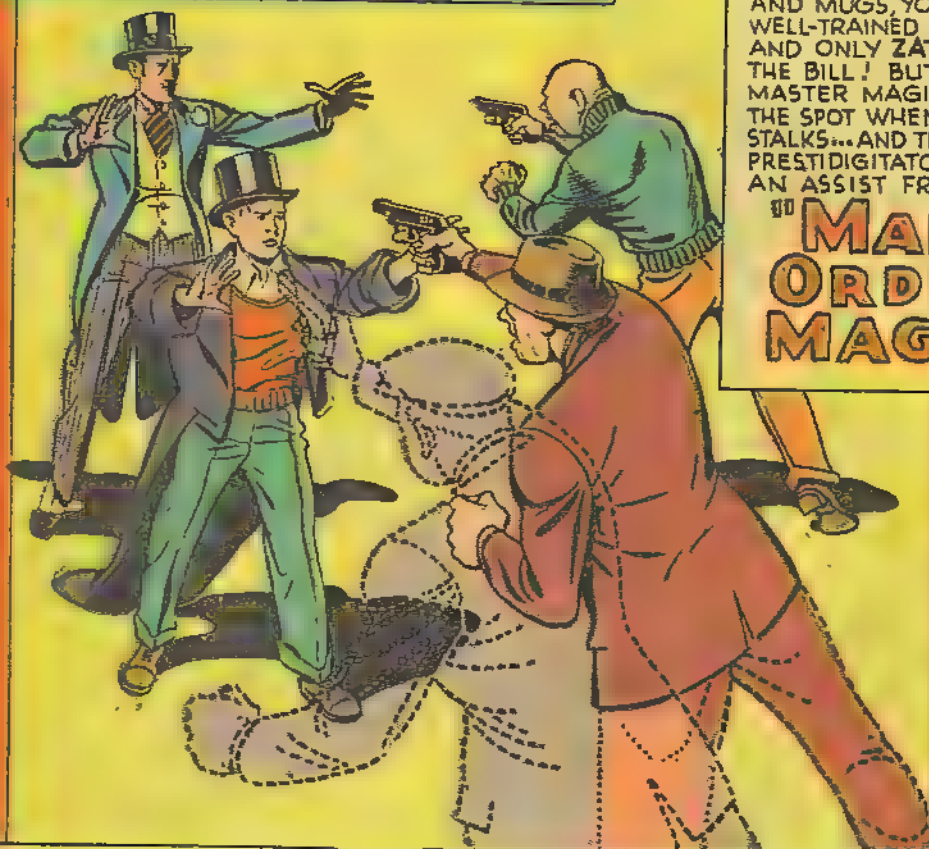


ZATARA

THE MASTER MAGICIAN

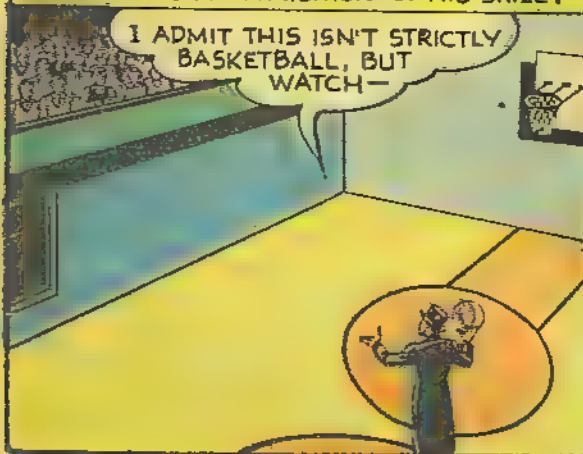
YOU CAN LEARN MAGIC FROM BOOKS... BUT YOU CAN'T DO MIRACLES THAT WAY! WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH MOBSTERS AND MUGS, YOU NEED A WELL-TRAINED WIZARD... AND ONLY ZATARA FILLS THE BILL! BUT EVEN THE MASTER MAGICIAN IS ON THE SPOT WHEN MURDER STALKS... AND THE PEERLESS PRESTIDIGITATOR NEEDS AN ASSIST FROM...

"MAIL-ORDER MAGIC!"



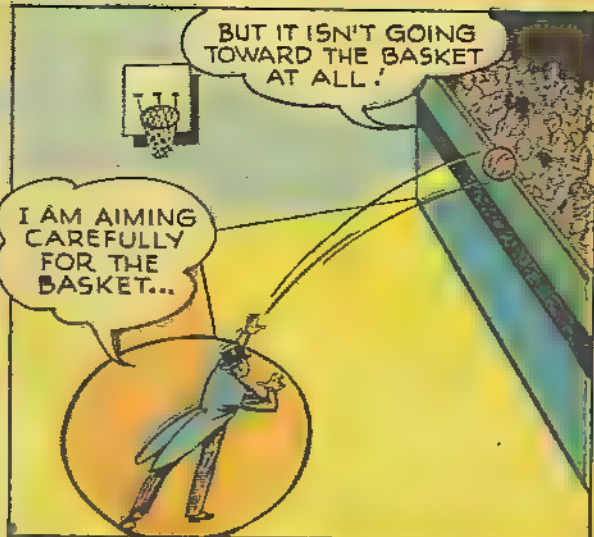
BETWEEN HALVES OF A SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME, ZATARA, THE FAMOUS MAGICIAN GIVES AN EXHIBITION OF HIS SKILL!

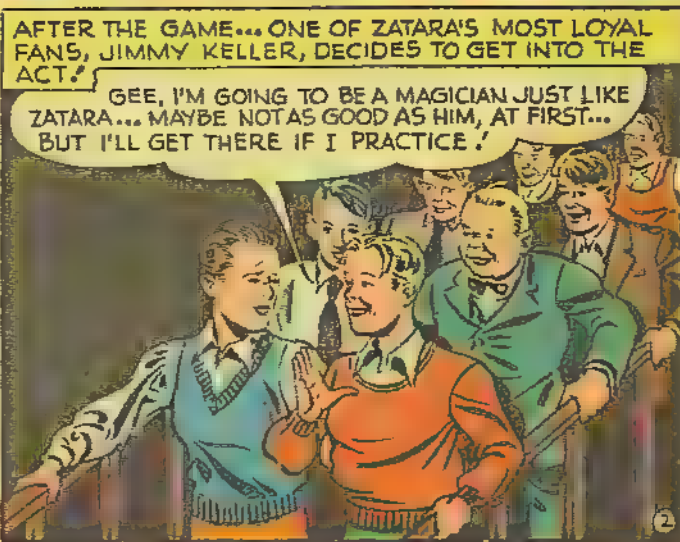
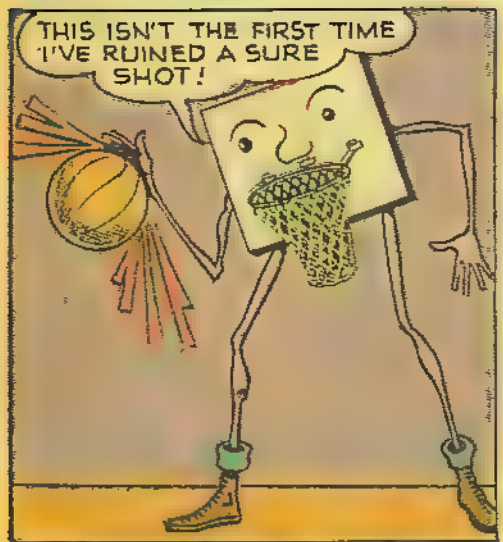
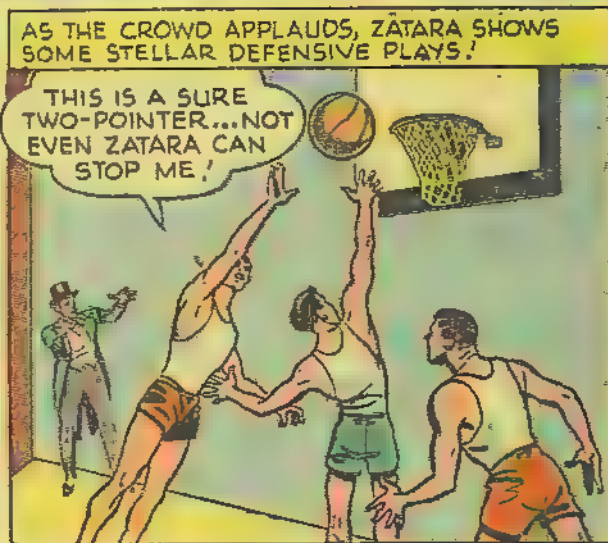
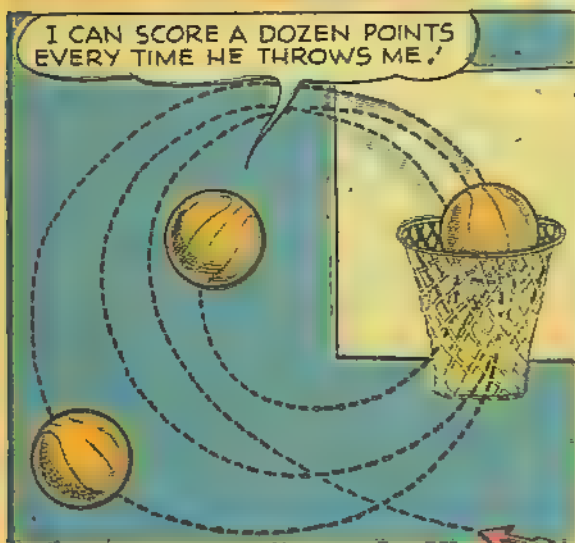
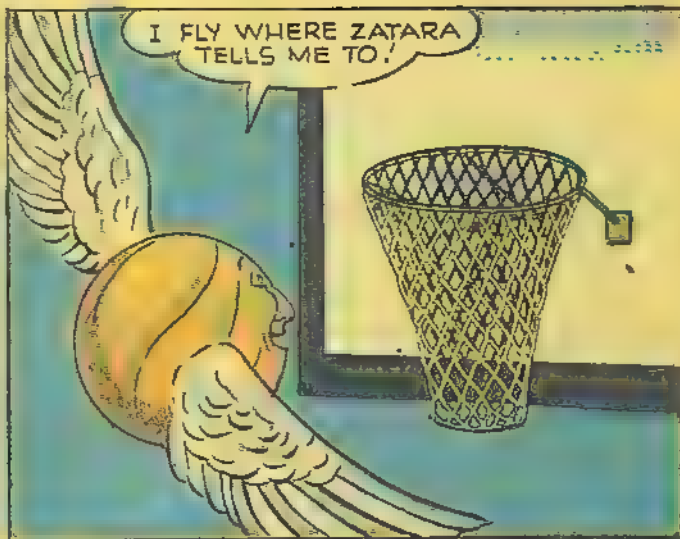
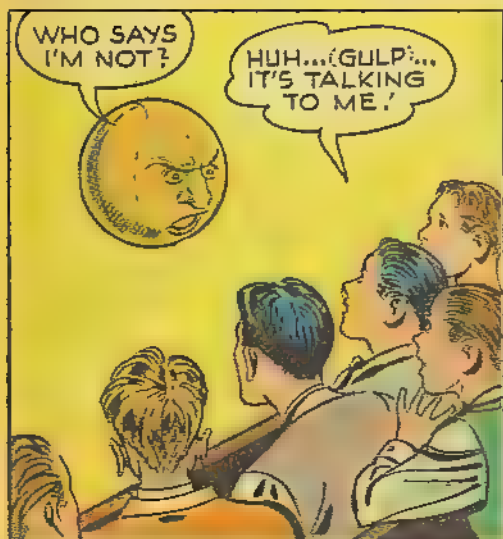
I ADMIT THIS ISN'T STRICTLY BASKETBALL, BUT WATCH—



BUT IT ISN'T GOING TOWARD THE BASKET AT ALL!

I AM AIMING CAREFULLY FOR THE BASKET...





AND JIMMY PRACTICES!

SHUCKS, ANYBODY COULD SEE HOW THAT'S DONE... I BETTER TRY ANOTHER WAY!



PRESENTLY... JIMMY IS READY TO ASTOUND HIS FRIENDS!

WATCH CLOSELY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... REMEMBER THE CARD I SHOWED YOU...

IT WAS THE ACE OF SPADES... YOU PUT IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DECK!



BUT IT DIDN'T STAY THERE... IT GOT INTO YOUR POCKET!

GOSH, HOW DID YOU DO THAT?



THEN... A WATCH TRICK...

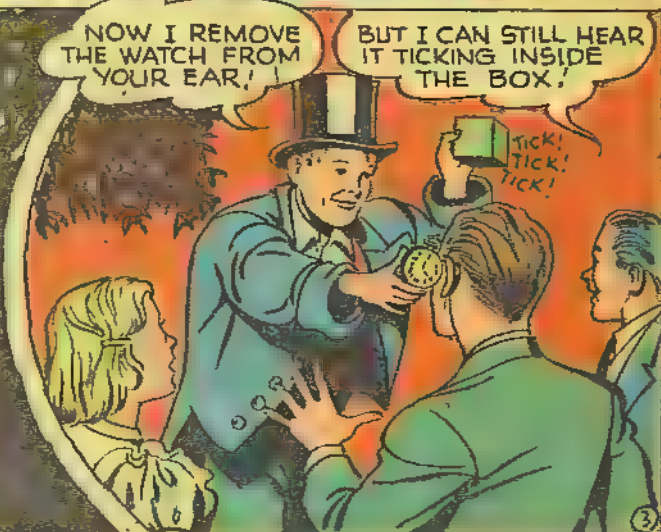
JUST WATCH THE WATCH... I PUT IT INTO THIS BOX... THEN I'LL CLOSE THE LID...

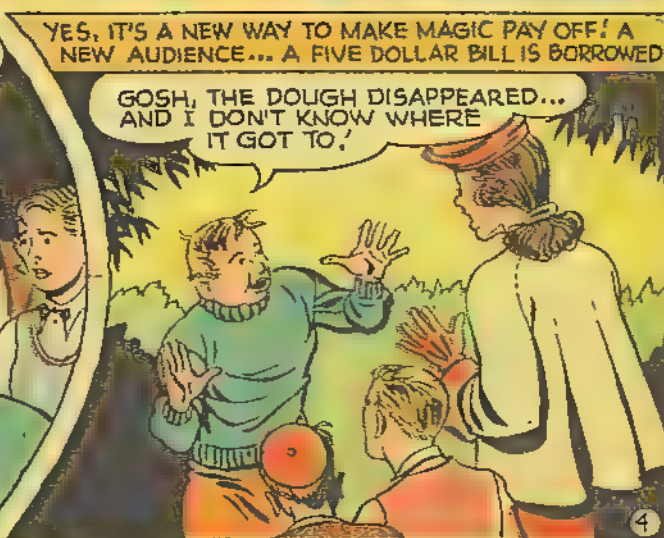
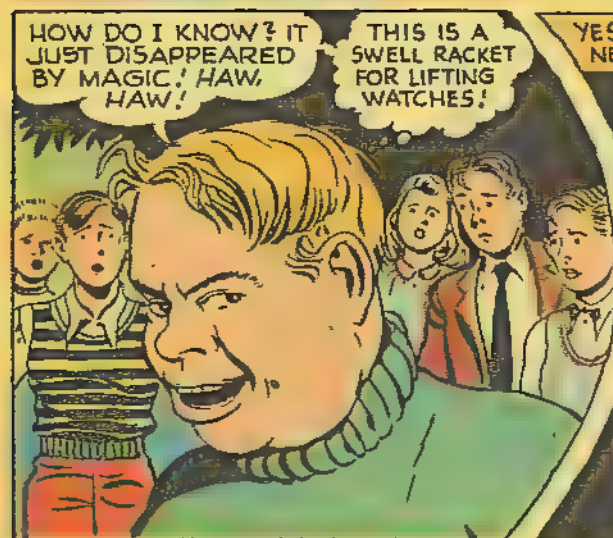
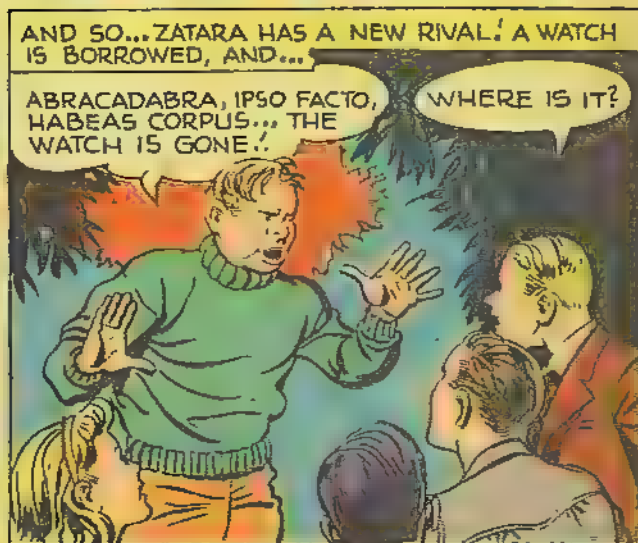
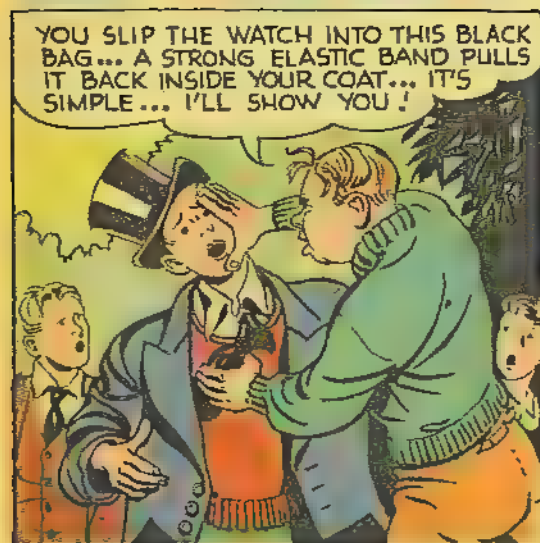
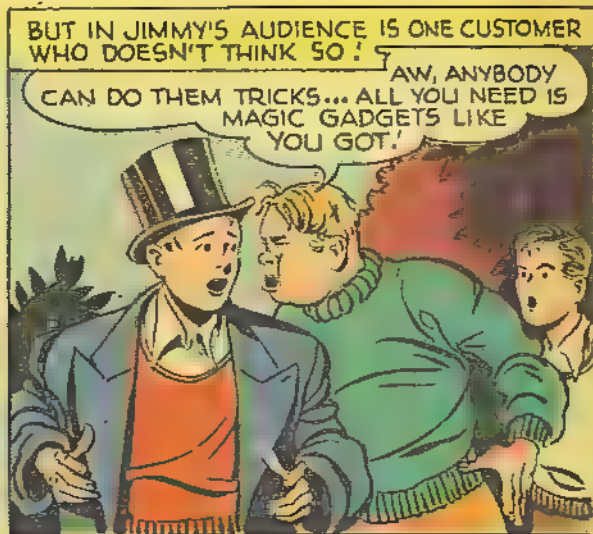
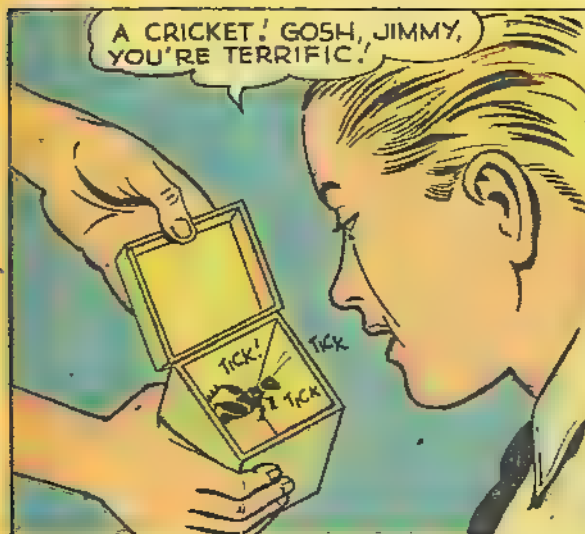


I TAP THE BOX WITH THIS MAGIC WAND! AND...

NOW I REMOVE THE WATCH FROM YOUR EAR!

BUT I CAN STILL HEAR IT TICKING INSIDE THE BOX!







LOOKING ON FROM THE SIDE OF THE AUDIENCE, HOWEVER, IS AN UNEXPECTED BYSTANDER... ZATARA HIMSELF!

MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU FIND IT! YENOM, KAEPS! EREHW ERA UOY?*

ZATARA!

*READ ZATARA'S MAGIC WORDS BACKWARD.

WONDER IF YOU WERE THE FIRST TO BE HIDDEN THERE? REHTO, NELOTS STCEJBO, EMOC TUO!

HERE I AM, ZATARA... I WAS IN A LITTLE BLACK BAG!

THANKS, ZATARA... WE'LL RETURN TO OUR RIGHTFUL OWNERS!

YIII... I'D BETTER GO!

NOT SO FAST! ELTTIL KCALB GAB, WORG... EKAM MIH RAEPPASIO!

WITH PLEASURE, ZATARA!

NEXT MOMENT...

HELP... MY BIG BROTHER WILL GET YOU FOR THIS... HELP, BALDY!

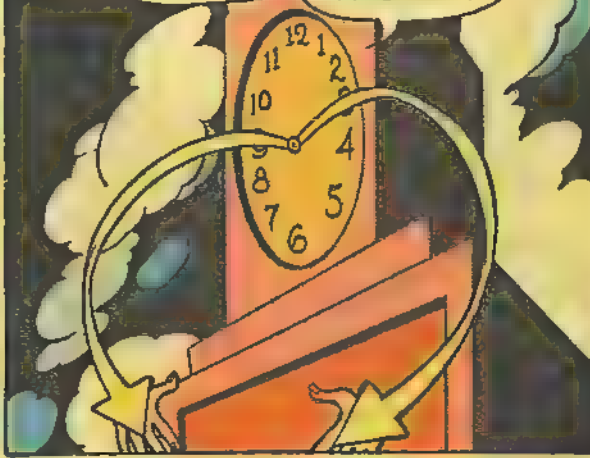
WHATSAMATTER MUGGSY... HEY, IT'S ZATARA!

BALDY SMITH! YOU WERE WANTED BY THE POLICE... BUT YOUR FRIENDS SAID YOU DISAPPEARED!

THIS TIME I'LL MAKE YOU REALLY DISAPPEAR! KCOLC, DNEL EM A DNAH!



I'LL SEND YOU BOTH HANDS, ZATARA... I ALWAYS HAVE A MINUTE OR TWO TO SPARE!



I'LL GIVE THEM THE WORKS, ZATARA!

EEEEHHH!



BUT IN THE MAD RUSH TO ESCAPE, ONE OF BALDY'S GANG HAS DONE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DISAPPEARING ACT!

YEEEOWW... MY SHINS!



SECONDS LATER, AS HE COMES UP BY A DIFFERENT EXIT...

NOTICED ME... HERE'S MY CHANCE TO GET RID OF HIM!

ZATARA HASN'T

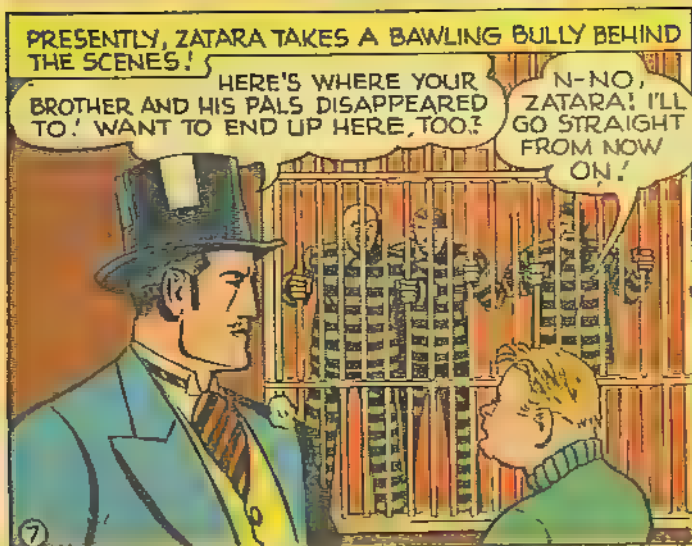
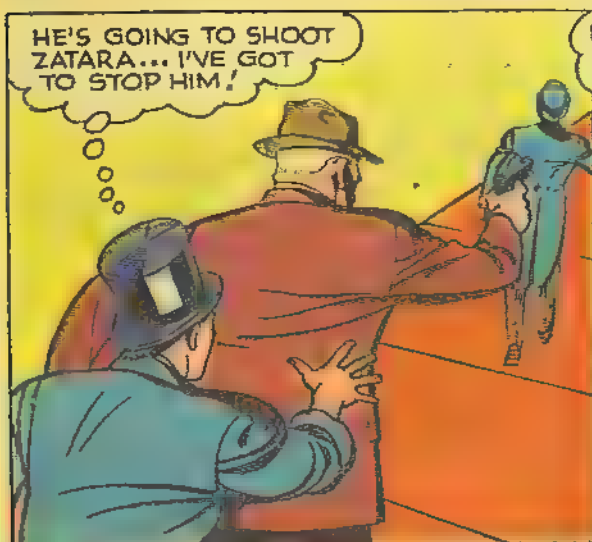


MEANWHILE... ZATARA'S ACTIONS HAVE HAD SLIGHTLY UNEXPECTED RESULTS!

ZATARA SENT ME BACK TO MY REAL OWNER! I'M ON MY WAY!

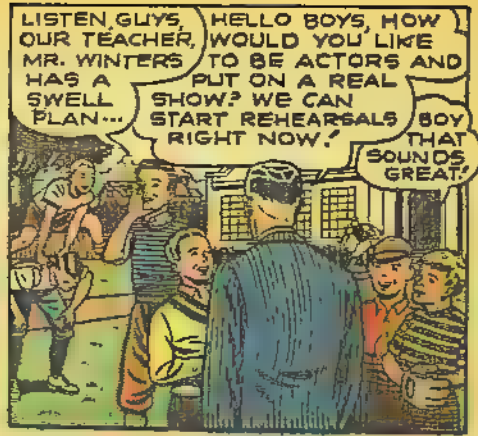
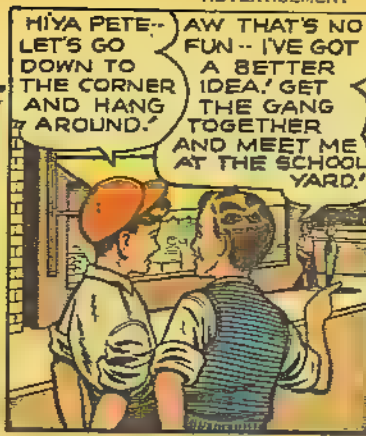
GOSH, YOU MEAN HE'S AROUND HERE? LET'S GO THANK HIM!





ADVENTURES OF "POPSICLE PETE"

IN
"SHOW
TIME"



ENJOY

Popsicle Fudgsicle Creamicle

and **SAVE BAGS** for **SWELL GIFTS**



**ALWAYS GET THE OFFICIAL
GENUINE BAGS —
THEY ALWAYS SAY —**

"Save These Bags for Gifts" and also read
"Licensed by Joe Lowe Corp."

**HERE ARE
ONLY
A
FEW**

Get your free list of all these wonderful gifts at your ice cream store.
Or write direct to Popsicle Pete at his address nearest to you:

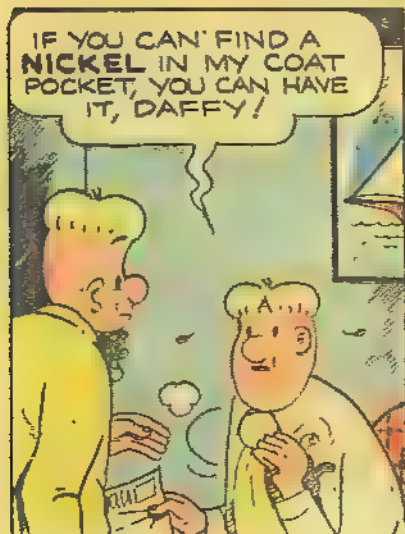
NEW YORK 1, N. Y. CHICAGO 10, ILL. LOS ANGELES 23, CAL. ATLANTA, GA.
601 W. 26th St. 400 W. Ohio St. 2744 E. 11th St. 325 Elizabeth St. N.E.





DAFFY & DOODLE

LIT WIN



SUPERMEN OF AMERICA

SUPERMAN'S SECRET MESSAGE

(Code Neptune No. 7)

AOL KPYLJAPVU PU
DOPJO LKBHAPVU
ZAHYAZ H THU DP-
SS KLALYTPUL OPZ
MBABYL SPML

SUPERMAN,
c/o ACTION COMICS

480 LEXINGTON AVENUE, N. Y. C. 17, N. Y.

JULY

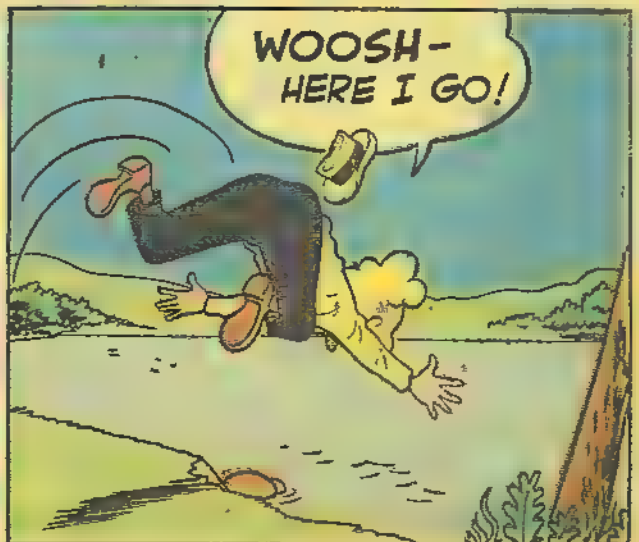
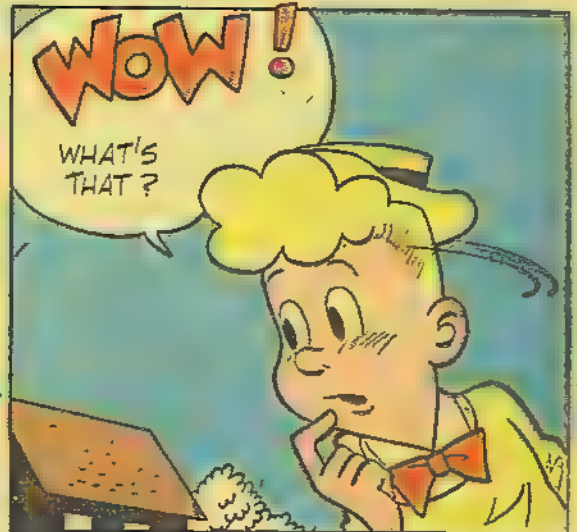
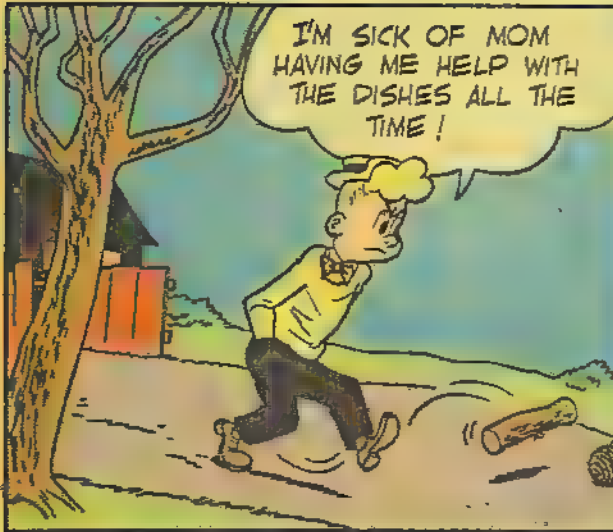
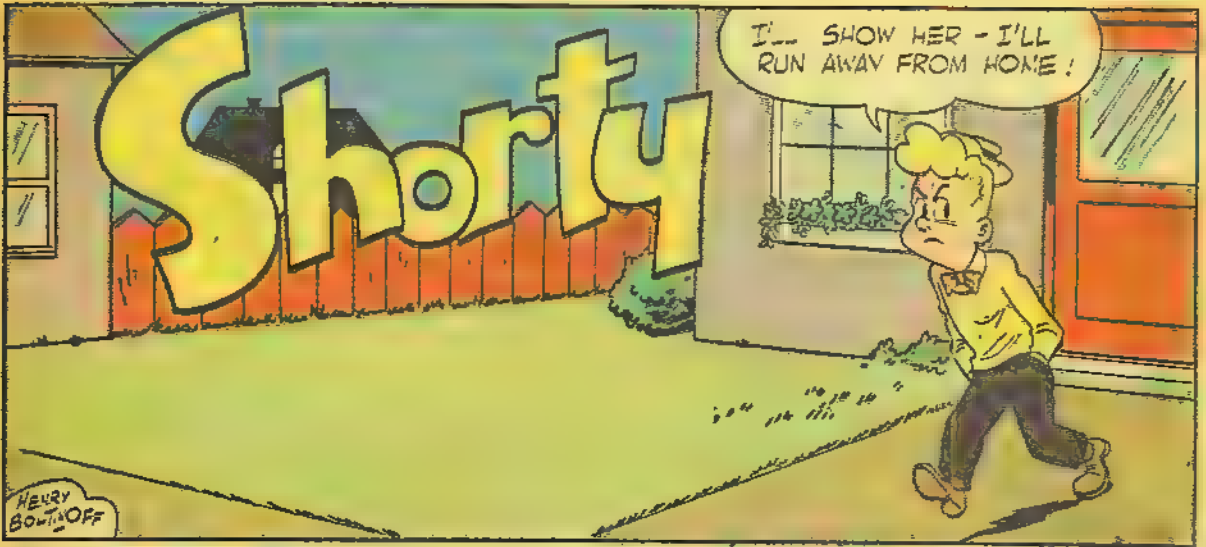
Dear Superman.

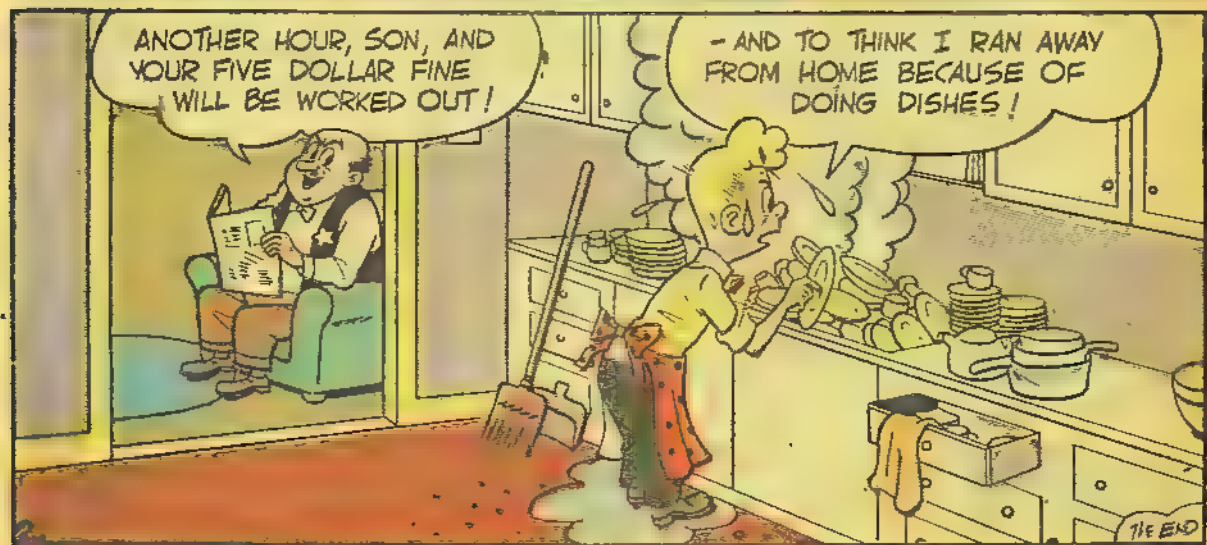
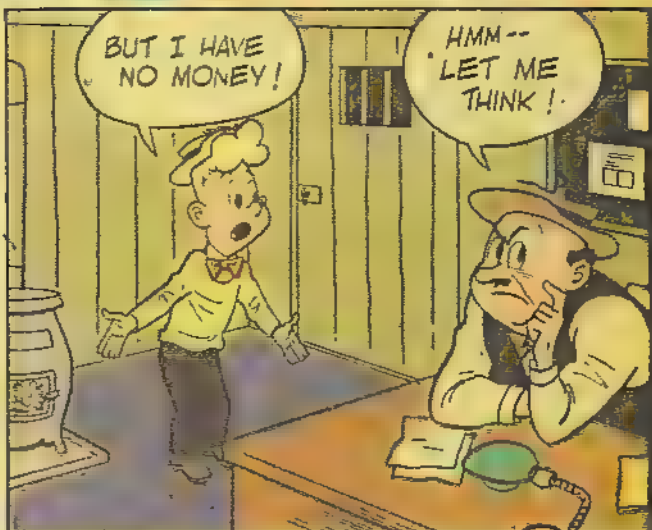
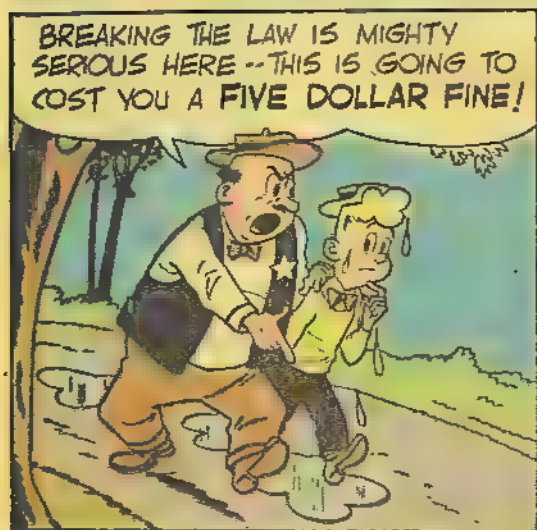
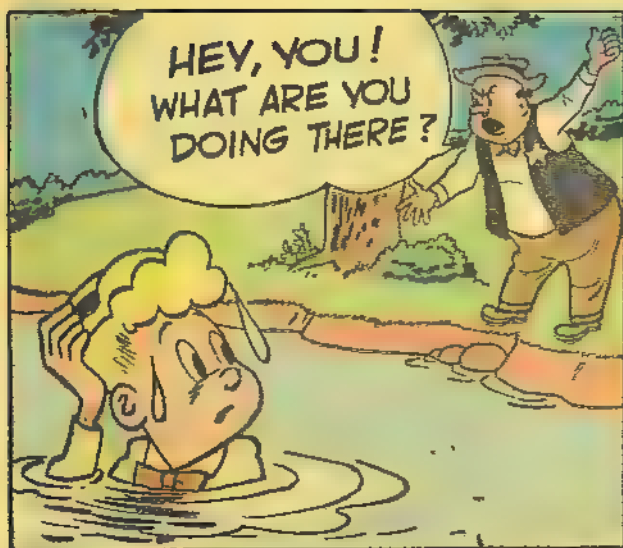
Please enroll me as a Member of the SUPERMEN of AMERICA. I enclose 10c to cover cost of mailing. It is understood that I am to receive my Membership Certificate, Emblem and Superman Code.

NAME..... AGE.....

STREET ADDRESS.....

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....





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Arch Cushion Support!



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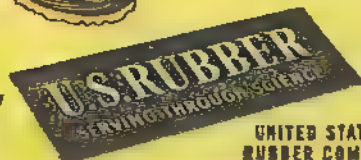


SPEEDARCH



FESTIVE

U. S. KEDS Handbook
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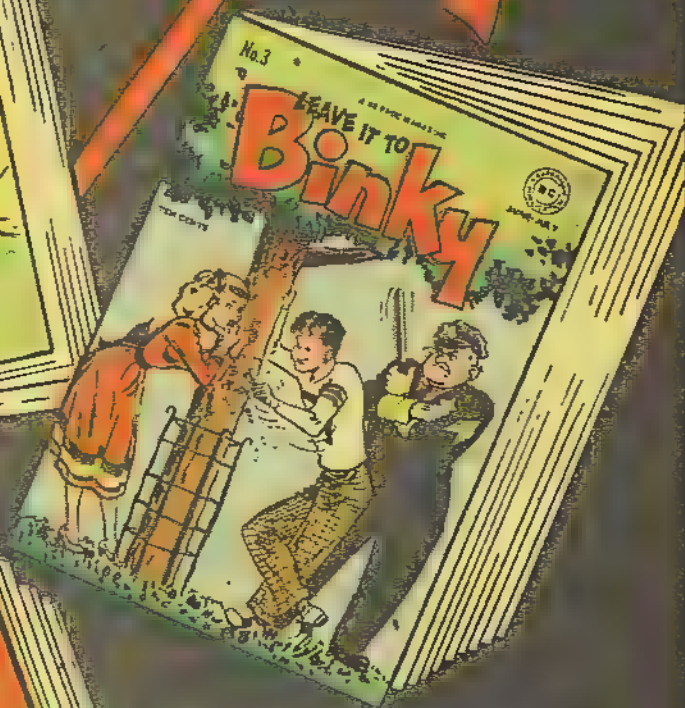
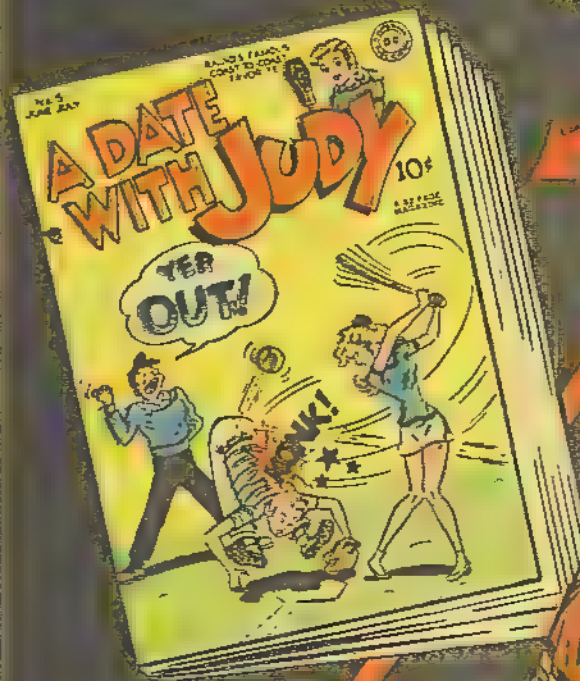
Keds Shockproof Arch Cushion

SHOCKPROOF
INSOLE
CUSHIONED
HEEL

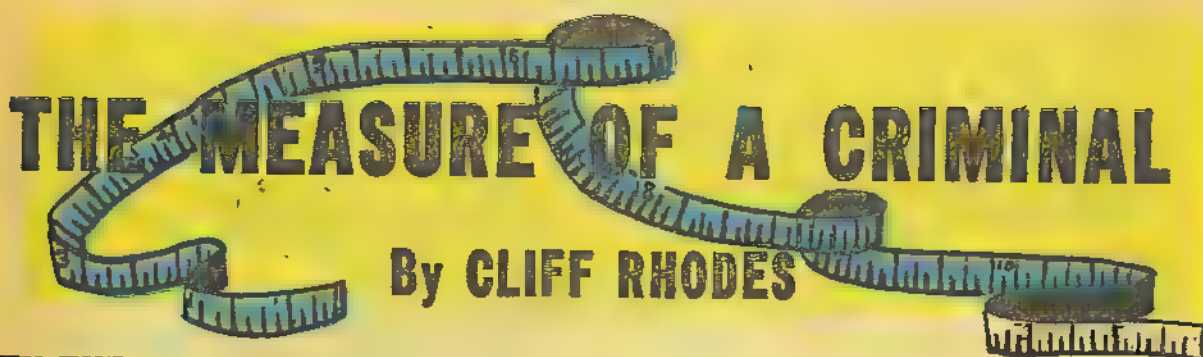


FOR THE **TOPS** IN TEEN-AGE **COMICS**

Read



IS YOUR
GUARANTEE
OF THE
BEST IN
COMICS!



THE MEASURE OF A CRIMINAL

By CLIFF RHODES

IN THE latter part of the past century the police of Austria were baffled by a crime that had all the earmarks of a modern movie thriller. A wealthy baron had been murdered, and the fleeing killer had left only one clue—a blood-stained imprint of an unshod foot.

News of this strange clue, along with the story of the shocking crime, spread over the countryside and came to the ears of a bookish professor named Gross at a distant university.

Professor Gross hurriedly packed a certain book from his library into a handbag, threw in a tape-measure, and caught the next train to the scene of the crime.

Prominent detectives from all parts of the country were working themselves into a hopeless lather as they questioned everyone who might possibly be considered a suspect. But for all their efforts, the only clue in the case was still that ghastly, baffling imprint of a human foot!

Professor Gross quietly consulted with the police officials, and after a few moments they shrugged their shoulders and gave him permission to enter the study where the crime had been committed. They thought of him as a troublesome amateur detective with crackpot notions, but the bespectacled old gentleman could do no harm, and perhaps by accident he might stumble across something they had overlooked.

However, there was nothing left to the accident of chance in Professor Gross's methods. He crouched over that mysterious footprint for a long time, studying it as though it were the most fascinating object in the world. From time to time he consulted diagrams and tables in the big vol-

ume he brought along with him. Then he took the tape-measure and made the most painstaking measurements of the baffling footprint. Its length, its width, and its taper seemed to be of grave importance to him.

The case-hardened police officers nudged each other slyly. They had heard funny stories about college professors, but this was one for the books!

It was, though not in the way they thought. The professor suddenly stood up, and making a final consultation of one of the tables in the big book, said: "Gentlemen, I can describe the man you want. He is six feet, one inch, tall. He is a thin man—yes, rather slender. He has been injured in the right knee, and was—well, probably up to the time of this injury—a soldier in the German Army."

The police officers gasped. "Why, you've just described a fellow we questioned this morning!" one of them said. "He lives in the village, but his only connection with the baron was that he served under him in the army. How could you tell so much from that footprint?"

A sly smile crept across the professor's face. "It's just a simple matter of anthropometrics," he said, leaving the professional policemen more puzzled than ever.

When the tall, thin man with an injured knee was questioned again, he broke down and confessed. That was after the professor had taken him aside and explained very convincingly how his footprint had described him better than an ordinary photograph.

The criminal's story was a simple one of jealousy and hatred for a man who had been his superior. He had taken off his

shoes to make his stealthy entrance into the house with an assassin's knife held ready in his hand. There had been a brief struggle—and then that one guilty footstep which left its imprint as he fled from the murder scene.

It was a great victory for Professor Gross—more than the mere solution of a sensational crime. For a long time he had been an ardent student of the careful researches made by Louis Alphonse Bertillon, the great criminologist with the Paris police. And now he had been able to show dramatically how useful the charts, tables, and diagrams prepared by the careful French investigator could be in trapping as well as identifying criminals.

You see, when Bertillon was called upon some years before to take over the Service of Identification of the Paris police force, fingerprinting was still a thing of the future. He began the practice of photographing convicted criminals, which is still a useful weapon in the fight against crime. However, photography was still in a crude stage of development, and after a few years it was hardly possible to identify a man from an old photograph.

After a great deal of study Bertillon found that while faces change there was still a way to take the measure of dangerous criminals! And that is exactly what he did. With special instruments he measured the length and breadth of each offender's head, the dimensions of his feet, the length of his middle finger. Then he added chest measurements, the length and breadth of the ears, and the color of the eyes. With all these facts on a man's record, in addition to even a crude photograph, it became almost impossible for him to escape justice under a false identity.

With thousands of such records at his command, Bertillon was able to continue his studies and make important observations. He found that there is a certain relationship between the size of one part of the body and another. We still use the old-

fashioned trick of testing the size of a stocking by holding the foot part around a closed fist. This is a simple example of Bertillon's science of anthropometrics.

And it was this science which enabled Professor Gross in a distant city to solve a crime that seemed beyond the range of ordinary police methods. The spectacular way in which he used the Bertillon System led to its popularity throughout Europe. It was the principal method of identification at Scotland Yard until the end of the 1890's, and police forces throughout the world still use some of its principles in addition to newer and improved methods.

But even with Bertillon's tables and charts at his command, how was Professor Gross able to give his remarkable description of that unknown criminal?

As he explained later to the puzzled police officials, his first observation was of a peculiar twist to the footprint that indicated a knee injury. Also, that single footprint told him that the man tended to bring down his weight on his heels, a tendency which was common among men who had been "goose-stepping" for a long time in the Imperial German Army. He calculated the man's height from the dimensions of the footprint and took a studied guess at his slender weight from the lightness of the impression. Each of these deductions had been made possible through Bertillon's exhaustive studies.

No wonder the patient French investigator came to be known throughout the world as the great mind behind crime detection! With his scientific aid, the feats of the French police went down in the history of crime fighting.

Police methods have greatly improved since the days of Bertillon, but he will always be known as the father of scientific criminal investigation. Crafty criminals who had eluded the ordinary manhunter were not able to escape from the first man who learned the secret of taking their measure!



VIGILANTE

The Cactus Theater Presents:

A ROOTIN'-SHOOTIN' WILD WEST
DRAMA, IN ONE BIG ROARING ACT!
SEE--THE DARING DESPERADOES
RIDE AGAIN! SEE--THE UNKNOWN
BANDIT OF GRIM VALLEY MATCH
WESTERN WITS WITH ONE OF THE
BADLAND'S GREATEST LAWMEN--
THE VIGILANTE! LEAVE YOUR SIX-
GUNS AT THE DOOR, FOR IT'S

"Curtain Time for the
MYSTERY GRIMES!"

SAY! THAT'S NOT
IN THE ACT!
THOSE BULLETS
ARE **REAL!**

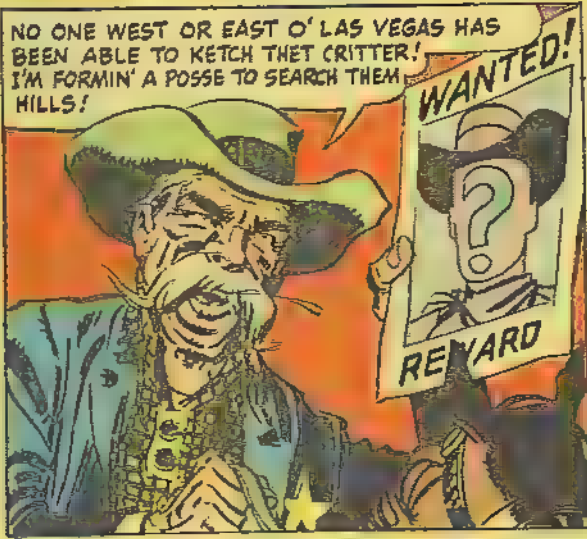
BANG!
BANG!





IN THE TOWN OF
TABER'S CREEK,
ACROSS THE
NEVADA LINE,
A PUBLIC MEET-
ING IS HELD...

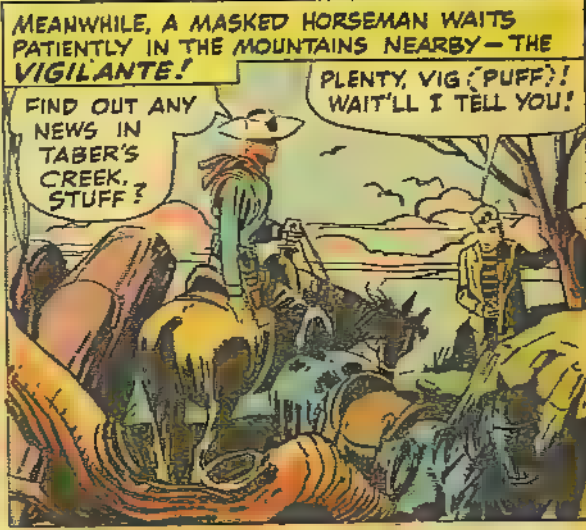
AGAIN LAST NIGHT OUR
HOMES WERE ROBBED!
WHO DID IT? THE
SAME MAN--
**THE UNKNOWN
BANDIT!**



NO ONE WEST OR EAST O' LAS VEGAS HAS
BEEN ABLE TO KETCH THET CRITTER!
I'M FORMIN' A POSSE TO SEARCH THEM
HILLS!

WANTED!

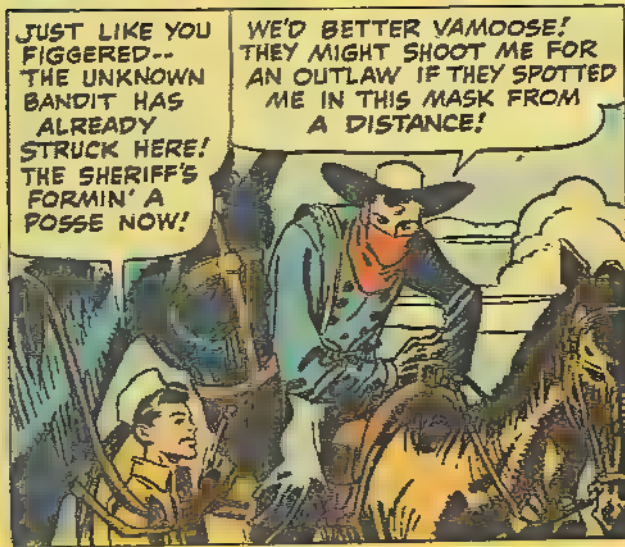
REWARD



MEANWHILE, A MASKED HORSEMAN WAITS
PATIENTLY IN THE MOUNTAINS NEARBY--THE
VIGILANTE!

FIND OUT ANY
NEWS IN
TABER'S
CREEK,
STUFF?

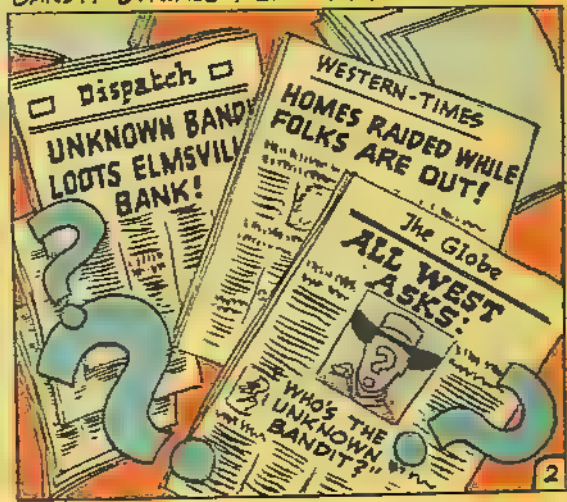
PLENTY, VIG (PUFF)!
WAIT'LL I TELL YOU!



JUST LIKE YOU
FIGGERED--
THE UNKNOWN
BANDIT HAS
ALREADY
STRUCK HERE!
THE SHERIFF'S
FORMIN' A
POSSE NOW!

WE'D BETTER VAMOOSE!
THEY MIGHT SHOOT ME FOR
AN OUTLAW IF THEY SPOTTED
ME IN THIS MASK FROM
A DISTANCE!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE MYSTERY
BANDIT STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN...



Dispatch
**UNKNOWN BANDIT
LOOTS ELMSTOWN
BANK!**

WESTERN-TIMES
**HOMES RAIDED WHILE
FOLKS ARE OUT!**

The Globe
**ALL WEST
ASKS:**

**WHO'S THE
UNKNOWN
BANDIT?**

THEN ONE DAY IN GOPHER GULCH, A GALA PARADE TAKES PLACE AS A COMPANY OF ACTORS COMES TO TOWN!

THE CACTUS THEATER
PRESENTING
YOUR FAVORITE **ONE-ACT PLAYS**

IT'S ROGER WESTGUN HIMSELF!

WHAT A MAN!



YES, THE THEATER'S IN TOWN...AND NOBODY WANTS TO MISS IT!

WHERE YUH GOIN', YUH HORNED TOAD? FINISH MY SHAVE AN' HAIRCUT!

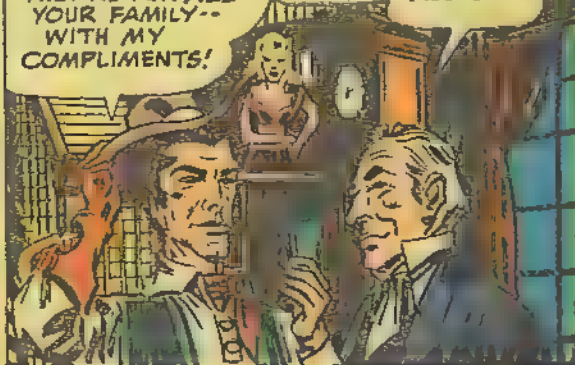
LATER, SMOKEY! I'M GETTIN' ROGER WESTGUN'S AUTOGRAPH!



TOWARD EVENING, WESTGUN HIMSELF CALLS IN PERSON AT SEVERAL HOMES...

BANKER WILLIAMS, HERE ARE TICKETS FOR OUR SHOW! THEY'RE FOR ALL YOUR FAMILY-- WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!

WELL! WE WEREN'T GOING! BUT NOW-- UH, THANKS! WE'LL ALL GO!



AND AT THE HOUSE OF A WEALTHY CATTLEMAN.

MR. KLING, FREE TICKETS FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY! AND BRING YOUR COWHANDS, TOO!

THANKS, WESTGUN! WE'LL ALL BE THERE!



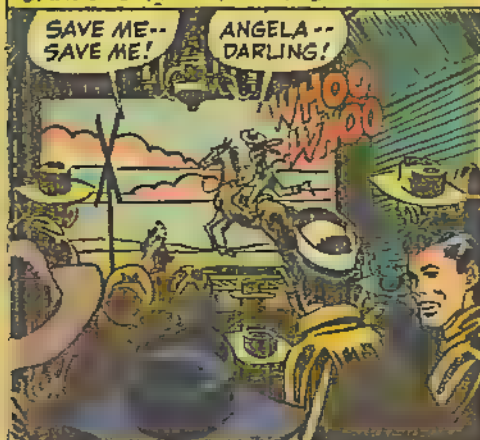
AFTERWARDS, ROGER WESTGUN MEETS WITH THREE OUTLAWS IN HIS DRESSING ROOM...

I'VE GIVEN YOU THE ADDRESSES OF THE HOMES WHERE THE RICH FOLKS WILL BE OUT! MY SIGNAL FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE SHOW AND ROB THEM IS WHEN THE GUNFIRE STARTS!

HAW, HAW! AND THEY STILL THINK THE UNKNOWN OUTLAW'S JUST ONE MAN! THIS IS GREAT!



LATER--THE "STIRRING DRAMA" UNFOLDS! AND IN THE AUDIENCE ARE GREG SANDERS AND YOUNG STUFF...



"THAT VARMIN'T, BULLET-BILL CRAIG DID THIS BECAUSE YOU TURNED DOWN HIS WEDDING PROPOSAL! WAIT'LL I GET HIM..."

YUH WON'T HAVE TO WAIT! I'M HERE **NOW!**



BULLET-BILL! DIE, YOU VILLAIN!

AH--I'M DEAD!...



AS THE "SHOOTING" ON STAGE HOLDS THE AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND, THREE FIGURES RISE IN THE AUDIENCE AND WALK OUT...



AND ONLY A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON...

GREG! ONE OF THE MEN THAT JUST WALKED OUT WAS POLECAT PETE -- EX-JAILBIRD AND ROBBER!

AND HE LEFT BEFORE THE CURTAIN CLOSED? COME ON!



OUTSIDE, GREG SANDERS SWITCHES TO HIS SECRET IDENTITY OF--THE VIGILANTE!

PLUMB FUNNY THAT POLECAT WOULD PAY TO SEE A SHOW-- AN' THEN LEAVE WHILE THE ACTION'S ON! LET'S FIND OUT WHY!

MOUNT PRONTO! I HEAR HOSSES RIDIN' OFF!



LET'S NOT GET TOO CLOSE TO 'EM --OR WE'LL SCARE 'EM OFF IF THEY ARE UP TO SOMETHIN'!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AT THE HOME OF BANKER WILLIAMS...

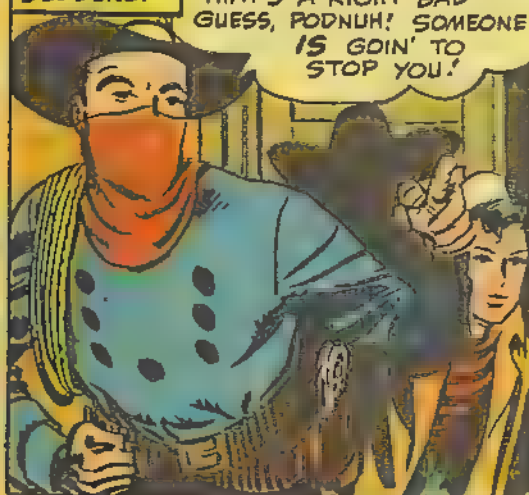
TAKE YER TIME, BOYS! HAW, HAW! AS LONG AS THE BANKER'S OUT ENJOYIN' THE PLAY, THANKS TO THE FREE TICKETS, ROGER GAVE HIM, WE CAN STEAL ANYTHING WE WANT!

WHAT A HAUL! AN' NO ONE TO STOP US!



SUDDENLY--

THAT'S A RIGHT BAD GUESS, PODNUH! SOMEONE IS GOIN' TO STOP YOU!



THE VIGILANTE!

DON'T BE SCAIRT, BOYS! IT'S JUST MY WAY OF SHOOTIN' SIX-GUNS OUT OF YORE HANDS!



AND THIS IS OUR WAY OF KNOCKING CROOKS STIFF!



THAT GUN ISN'T GOIN' TO HELP, POLE-CAT!

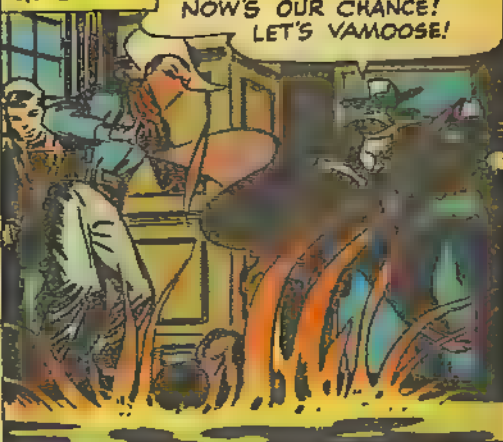


THE VIGILANTE'S LASSO SNAKES OUT AND...



WRONG
DIRECTION,
HOMBRE! GET
YORSELF A
COMPASS!

THE BURNING LAMP FALLS TO THE FLOOR
AND THE FLAMING OIL SPREADS
QUICKLY...



NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
LET'S VAMOOSE!

LATER..

THIS BLANKET
DID THE TRICK,
VIG! WE
SMOTHERED
THE FIRE!

THE CROOKS GOT
AWAY -- BUT WE
COULDN'T GO
AFTER 'EM AND
LET MR. WILLIAMS'
PLACE BURN
DOWN!



NO USE WORRYIN' ABOUT 'EM NOW!
THEY'VE HIGH-TAILED IT AWAY
SO FAR THAT WE'D NEVER
CATCH 'EM!

RIGHT, PARD!
OUR UNKNOWN
BANDITS GOT
AWAY!



UNKNOWN BANDITS!
YOU MEAN, THOSE
CROOKS --

THAT MIGHT BE THE ANSWER!
THERE IS MORE THAN ONE
UNKNOWN BANDIT, I'M
AFRAID! AN' I'M JUS' GETTIN'
THE HANG O' HOW THEY
OPERATE!



THE BOSS--WHOMEVER HE IS--COULD
PLAN ALL THESE JOBS WITHOUT IN-
VOLVIN' HISSELF, AN' HIS MEN COULD
GO OUT AN' WORK 'EM! EVERYBODY
THINKS IT'S JUST ONE MAN
DOIN' IT -- AN' THAT'S HOW
WE'VE BEEN GETTIN'
FOOLED!



THE NEXT DAY, AFTER THE **VIGILANTE** HAS CHECKED WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE --

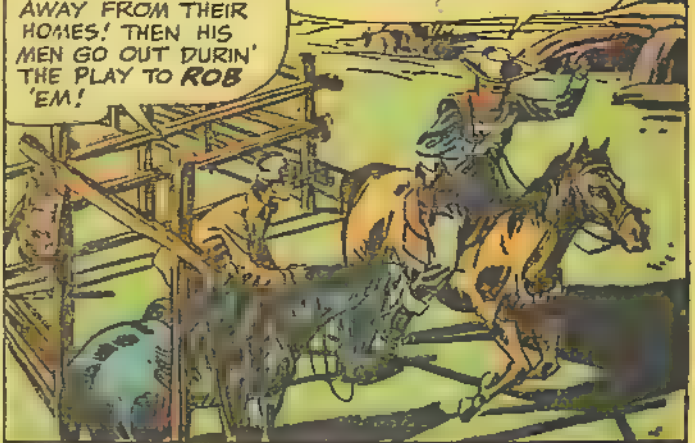
WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT, VIG?

THAT ALL THE OWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBED WERE **FIRST** GIVEN FREE TICKETS TO THE PLAY BY WESTGUN HIMSELF! SAVVY?



I SEE! WESTGUN GIVES 'EM TICKETS JUST TO GET 'EM AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES! THEN HIS MEN GO OUT DURIN' THE PLAY TO **ROB** 'EM!

RIGHT, PARD! AN' NOW WE'RE RIDIN' FAST TO THE NEXT TOWN WHERE THE PLAY OPENS!



LATER, IN NEARBY CANYON CITY, THE **VIGILANTE** AND STUFF ARE HARD AT WORK AT A STRANGE TASK...

BUT, VIG! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE DRAPES AND STAGE SETTINGS?

WORK A PLAN WITH THE LOCAL SHERIFF!



THEN TOWARD EVENING, A "WEALTHY OIL MAN" AND HIS "SON" ACCEPT - FREE TICKETS FROM THE FAMOUS ACTOR...

IT'S A PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU FREE TICKETS, SIR!

THANKS, WESTGUN! THE BOY AN' ME'LL SURE SEE YORE PLAY!



AT 9:00, THE "STIRRING DRAMA" UNFOLDS -- A SCENE OF WESTGUN AS A HEROIC "INDIAN FIGHTER"...

INJUNS! DON'T WORRY--I'LL SAVE YUH!

THE SIGNAL FOR US MEN TO LEAVE!



BUT WHEN WESTGUN'S MEN ARRIVE AT THE HOME OF THE "OIL MAN"...

TARNATIONS! WHAT'S **THEM** TWO DOIN' HERE? THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE EMPTY!

THIS PLACE IS **NEVER** EMPTY, POLECAT! WATCH!...

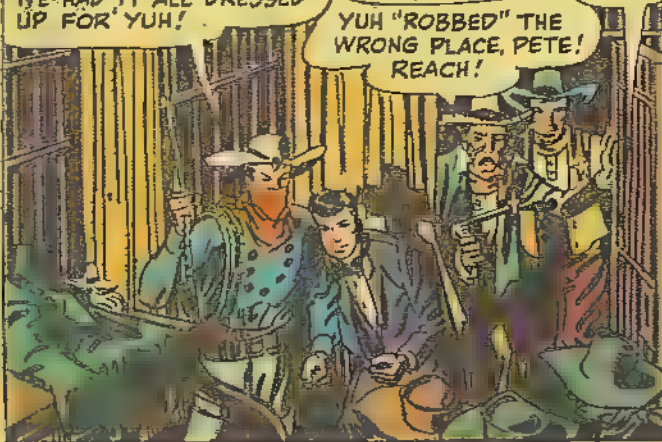


THEN THE VIGILANTE PULLS A STRING, AND...

SEE--THE JAIL HOUSE!
WE HAD IT ALL DRESSED
UP FOR YUH!

WHAT?! WE'RE TRAPPED!

YUH "ROBBED" THE
WRONG PLACE, PETE!
REACH!



MEANWHILE, AT THE THEATER, A THRILLING
"CHASE" SCENE NEARS A CLIMAX...

NEVER FEAR! WE WON'T GIVE UP
WITHOUT A FIGHT! AH! THEY'RE
FLEEING! MY DEADLY ACCURACY
WAS TOO MUCH FOR THEM!



THEN--

WE'RE FREE,
MY SWEET --
HUH?

THERE'S NO FREEDOM FOR YOU,
MR. UNKNOWN BANDIT!
YOU'RE JOINING YOUR
GANG IN THE
CALABOOSE!



NOT ONLY DO I HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE
I NEED ON YOU, WESTGUN-- BUT YORE
BOYS JUST SIGNED A
FULL CONFESSION --
INCLUDIN' YOU IN THE
ROBBERIES!



AS WESTGUN TRIES TO SHIELD HIMSELF WITH THE
INNOCENT ACTRESS...

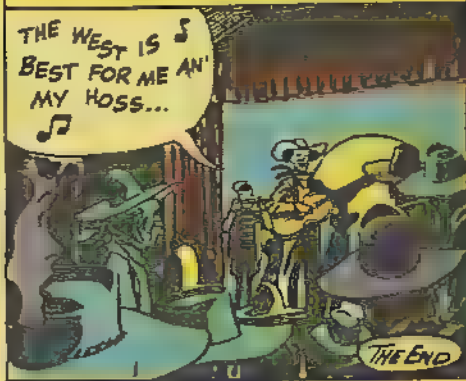
I'LL SHOOT THIS GIRL
IF YOU TRY TO
TAKE ME --
AHHH!

A PERFECT
SHOT!
ENOUGH TO
KNOCK
HIM COLD!



YES, WESTGUN WAS LOCKED UP!
AND THE PLAY? WELL, THE CUSTOMERS
GOT THEIR MONEY'S WORTH--
FOR GREG SANDERS AND YOUNG
STUFF DID A MIGHTY GOOD JOB
OF SERENADING!

THE WEST IS
BEST FOR ME AN'
MY HOSS...



THE END

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Thom McAn Asks:

How Much do You **REALLY** Know About

BASEBALL?



WHO INVENTED BASEBALL AS WE KNOW IT--AND WHEN?

ANSWER: BASEBALL HISTORIANS SAY ALEXANDER CARTWRIGHT, NOT ABNER DOUBLEDAY.
DATE: 1845-46.



ONLY 7 PITCHERS--ACTIVE SINCE 1900--HAVE WON 300 BIG LEAGUE GAMES. HOW MANY CAN YOU NAME?

ANSWER: LEFTY GROVE, CHRISTY MATHEWSON, GROVER ALEXANDER, ED PLANK, WALTER JOHNSON, CY YOUNG AND CHARLES NICHOLS.



HOORAY!
IT'S A HIT!

WHAT BRAND OF SHOES WINS BIG LEAGUE CHEERS FOR LOW PRICE AND LONG WEAR, YEAR AFTER YEAR?

ANSWER: IT'S THOM McAN--THE SHOE THAT GIVES YOU TOP STYLING PLUS DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR VALUE YOU CAN'T BEAT.

HOW WOULD YOU CALL IT?

BATTER MISJUDGES INSIDE BALL, TAKES A SWING. BUT THE BALL HITS HIM! DOES HE GET A FREE TRIP TO FIRST?

ANSWER: NO. HE SWUNG AT IT, SO IT'S A STRIKE.



IN BASEBALL SLANG, WHAT ARE "DUCKS ON THE POND"?

ANSWER: RUNNERS ON BASES. A TEAM WITH "DUCKS ON THE POND" AND NO OUTS FEELS AS GOOD AS A FELLOW WITH A NEW PAIR OF THOM McANS!

FREE!

WITH YOUR NEXT PAIR OF THOM McANS THIS BIG FULL-SIZE PHOTO OF

BOBBY FELLER!

WITH BOBBY'S OWN AUTOGRAPH IN GENUINE FACSIMILE.
--PLUS EXCITING 25-QUESTION BASEBALL QUIZ.



SAVE THIS VALUABLE CERTIFICATE. BRING IT TO YOUR NEAREST THOM McAN SHOP

BOBBY FELLER Photo CERTIFICATE

DO NOT MAIL--GOOD ONLY IN THOM McAN SHOPS

GIVE THIS TO THE THOM McAN SHOE FITTER NEXT TIME YOU BUY A PAIR OF THOM McAN SHOES, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR BOBBY FELLER PHOTO AND QUIZ. DO NOT MAIL--GOOD IN A THOM McAN SHOP ONLY. EXPIRES DEC. 1, 1948.

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TEAR OUT CERTIFICATE NOW, AND PRESENT IT NEXT TIME YOU BUY A PAIR OF HANDSOME, "HE-MAN" THOM McANS. YOU'LL GET BOBBY FELLER'S PHOTO--PLUS THE GREATEST DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR SHOE VALUE IN AMERICA.

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